



# Controlling in Small Medium Enterprises

between DATA DRIVEN DECISION  
MAKING and Improvisation

## MARIUSZ RZEŹNIKIEWICZ – CONTROLLING – INSIGHTS FOR A BETTER FUTURE

- External Controller / Certified Restructuring & Reorganisation Consultant

independent controller, assisting **small and medium-sized enterprises** especially in Germany in the area of **controlling and business model redesign** for last 15 years.



Business Analytics



Business Planung



Management Reporting



### Clients:

- Companies that need to check the plausibility of their database and therefore need a competent partner for planning, setting up and supporting monthly reporting.
- Companies that already use ERP or BI tools and are looking for a reliable partner in matters of controlling, business process optimisation and transparency.

**Mariusz Rzeźnikiewicz**

Gubener Str. 21C  
15230 Frankfurt (Oder)

+49(0)-152-3454 3750

mr@mr-con.com  
mr-con.com

# Agenda

---

1. Improvisation – Why?

2. Controlling in SME

3. Digital Transformation – changes

4. Use Case – Example of ML-Model

5. Recommendations



# Agenda

1. Improvisation – Why?

2. Controlling in SME

3. Digital Transformation – changes

4. Use Case – Example of ML-Model

5. Recommendations





# Data-driven decision making has a long tradition

e.g. Thales von Milet (624-548 b.  
Chr.) - olive harvest forecast based  
on stellar observation



# Where are we today?

Very fast changing  
environment ->  
you must be  
fast...agil

full of data...and  
information flood

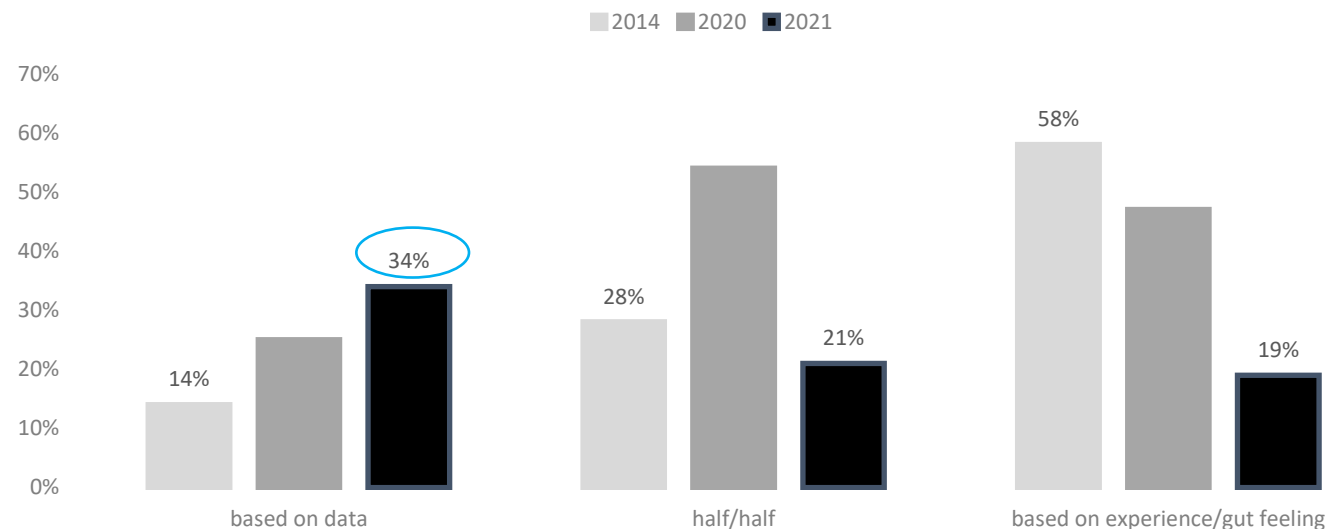
Limited  
ressources



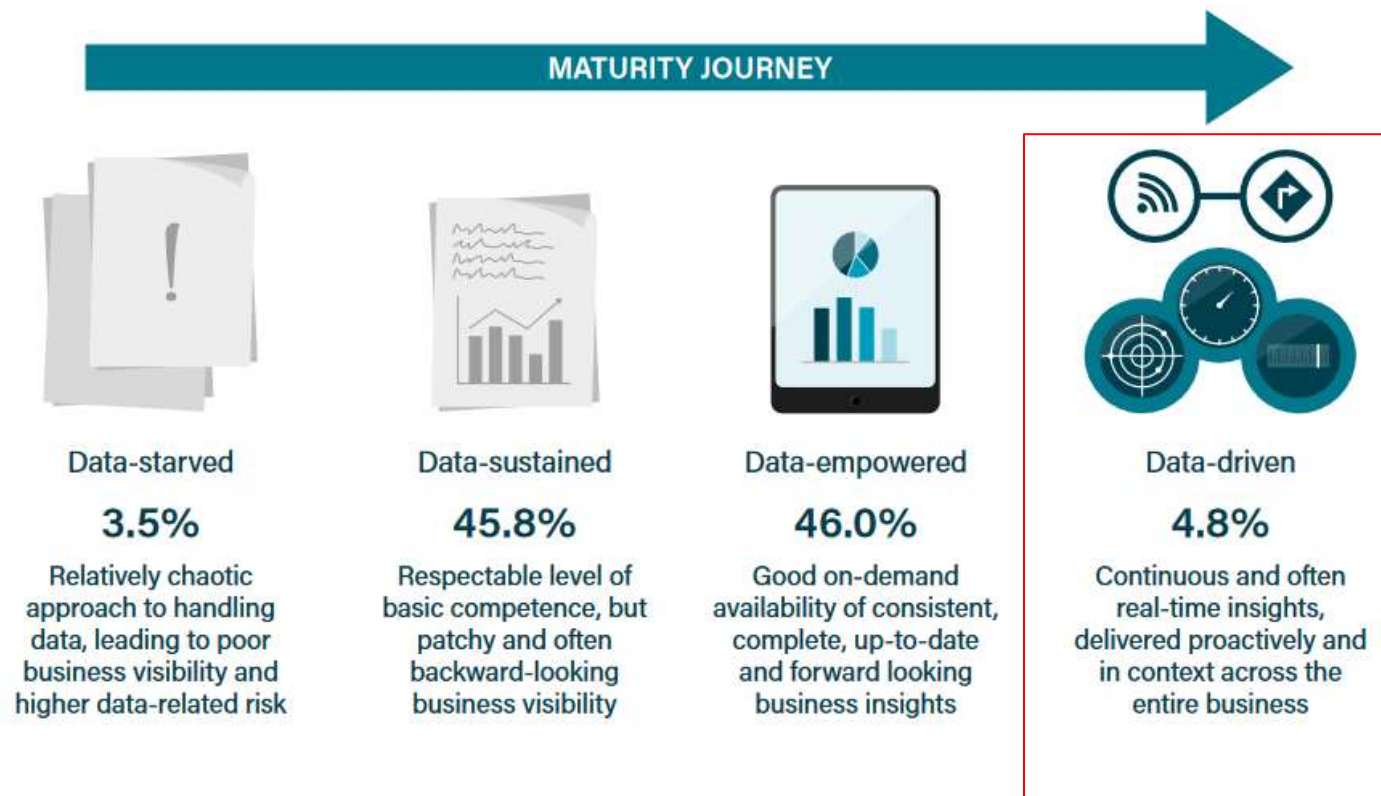
# Are decisions in your company based on data or gut feeling?

Source: BARC Data Culture Survey 22 – How to shape the culture of a data-driven organization

## Are decisions in Your Company based on data or gut feeling? 2021 vx. 2020 vs. 2014 (n = 429/412/697)



## Where are Your company on your data maturity journey?




Source: Study of Fujitsu and Freeform Dynamics, 2020



# Improvisation is needed!

- to be able to solve problems despite a lack of planning capacity
- achieve an economic level of detail in problem solving;-react to ex-post surprises
- create the basis for the acquisition or development of knowledge relevant to planning.



Improvisation allows for the unplanned and does not experience it as a threat: however, successful management requires professionalism. So you need both.

# Improvisational Responses – in SME



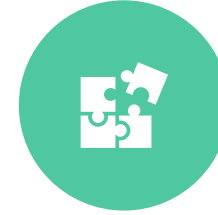
ADAPTING TO  
MARKET CHANGES



PROBLEM-SOLVING



CUSTOMER  
SERVICE



INNOVATION



CRISIS  
MANAGEMENT



EMPLOYEE  
COLLABORATION



COMMUNICATION



RESSOURCE  
MANAGEMENT

# Agenda

1. Improvisation – Why?

2. Controlling in SME

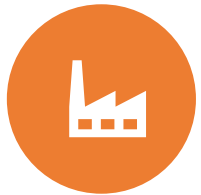
3. Digital Transformation – changes

4. Use Case – Example of ML-Model

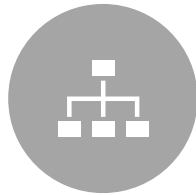
5. Recommendations



# SME and Controlling



Small-medium enterprises – till about 500 employees / very often family based company



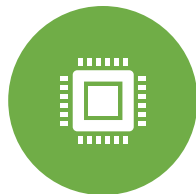
Organisation is developing with the growth of the company – at the beginning very agile / based on several people / later very often departments / silo-thinking



One / or very small team of controllers – responsible for the whole company



The success of the company comes from good products / services – and the team of engaged people



As a controller You need to work peer2peer with Your colleagues / have to look beyond the plate



Small is beautiful 😊

# Data in SME – Challenge **DAILY** Business!



ERP-Software very often not in the actual release (sometimes MS DOS based) – implemented not to the end



A lot of isolated applications



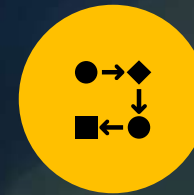
Limited Knowledge of the usage of the software



XLS as a only tool for data analysis – uneffectiveness in Preparing Reports



a lot of possibilities to find new data (sensors etc.)– but not really time – because of daily business



Process not always optimal – we did it always this way...

A lot of data rich and information poor companies!!!



# What is important for the managers of SME



Fast information



Knowledge about the calculation of products /services



Simple intergrated planning – with main KPI's.



Simulation of scenarios



Pricing monitoring



transparency



MANAGERS / OWNERS ARE OPEN FOR NEW INSIGHTS – BUT THEY DON'T WANT TO DEAL WITH COMPLICATED MODELS

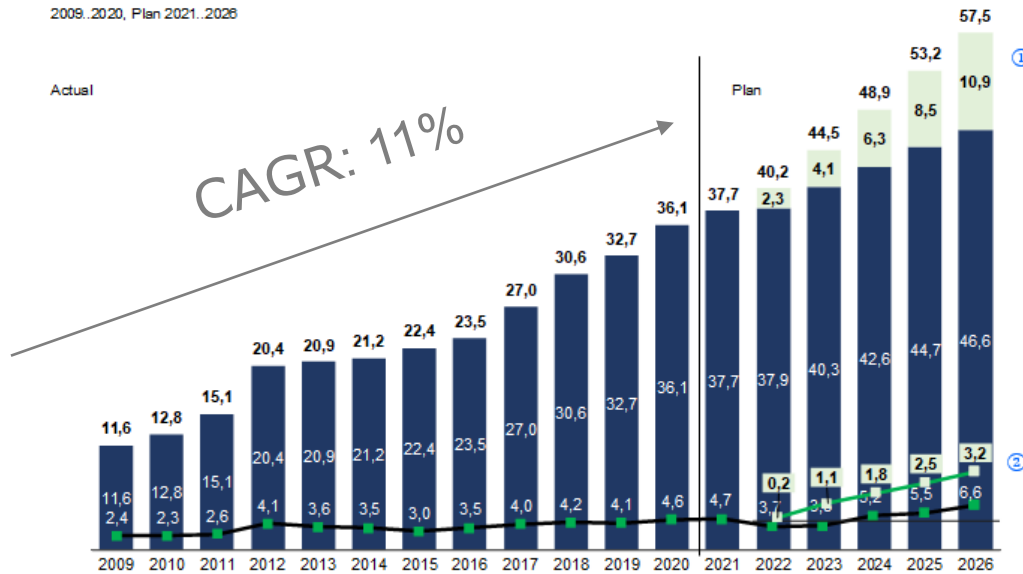
# Beginn with a Planning MODEL

exp

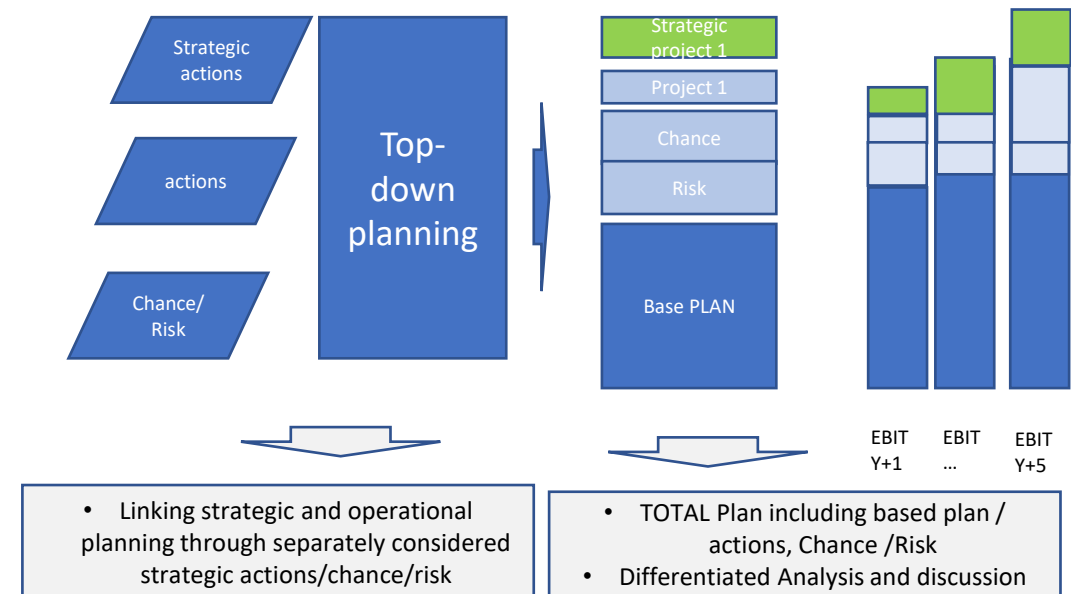
PROJECT X... BRINGS 32 MIO <sup>①</sup> ADDITIONAL REVENUE AND  
8,9 MIO PROFIT IN THE PERIOD 2022-2026

In Mio EUR

Xxxx AG BASE CASE + Project xxxx  
Revenue / EBIT  
2009..2020, Plan 2021..2026

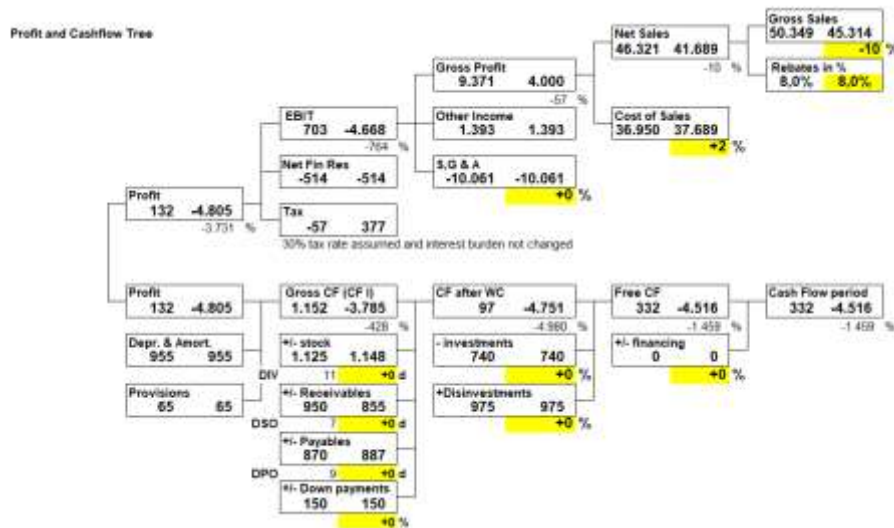


Strategic Actions, Chance & Risk  
should be showed in the planning separately

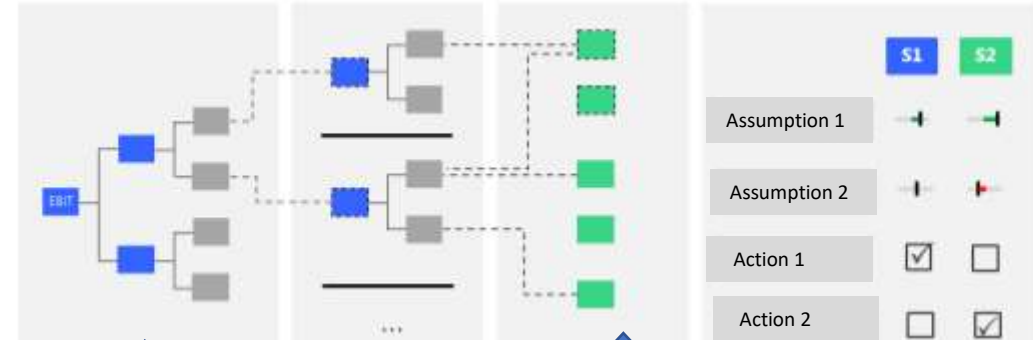


# Build the Business Model and Simulation

SIMULATION wins with FORECAST – QUICK Decissions possible



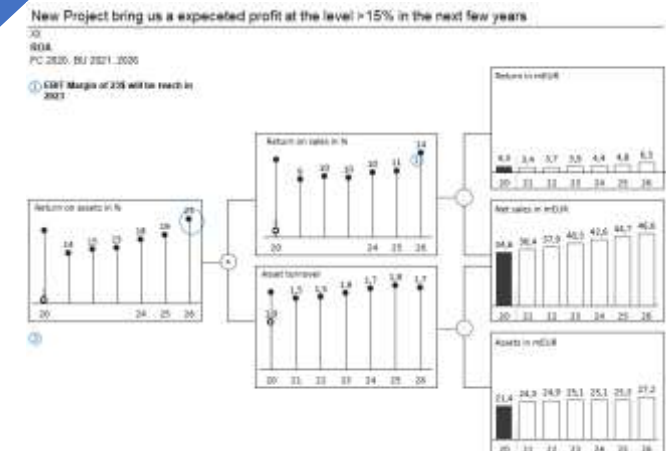
Based on CA



Reporting of P&L and KPI's

Planning of drivers

- ✓ Use IBCS Standards and simplify
- 📅 Ad hoc information in XLS or BI TOOL
- 🗄️ DATA Storytelling



# Agenda

1. Improvisation – Why?

2. Controlling in SME

3. Digital Transformation – changes

4. Use Case – Example of ML-Model

5. Recommendations





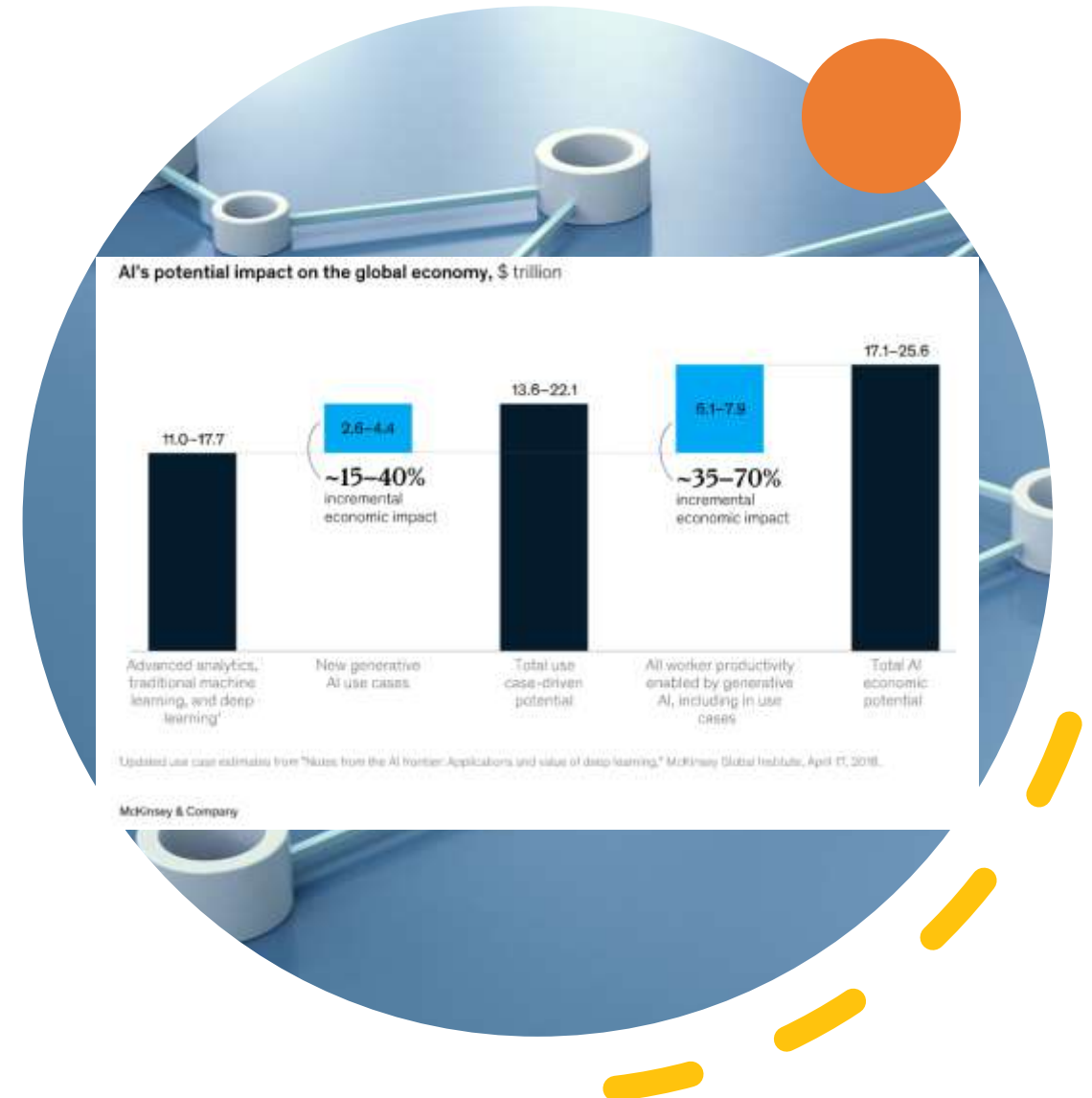
# Information is a strategic Ressource



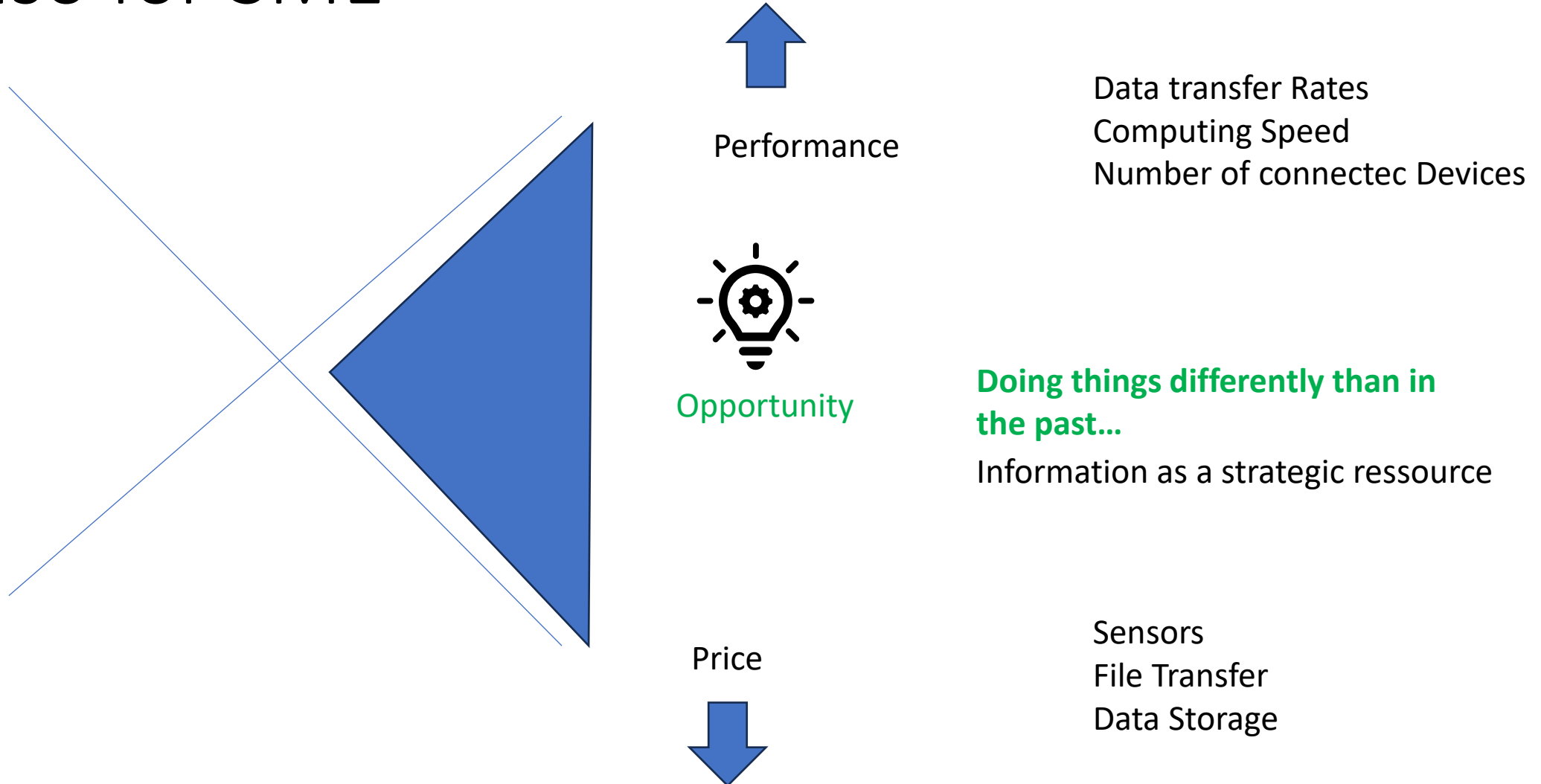
„The ability to capture, link, analyze and use data to improve Business Processes and Models is key to competitiveness.



Key Drivers are technological Innovations to generate, link and analyze new data.“



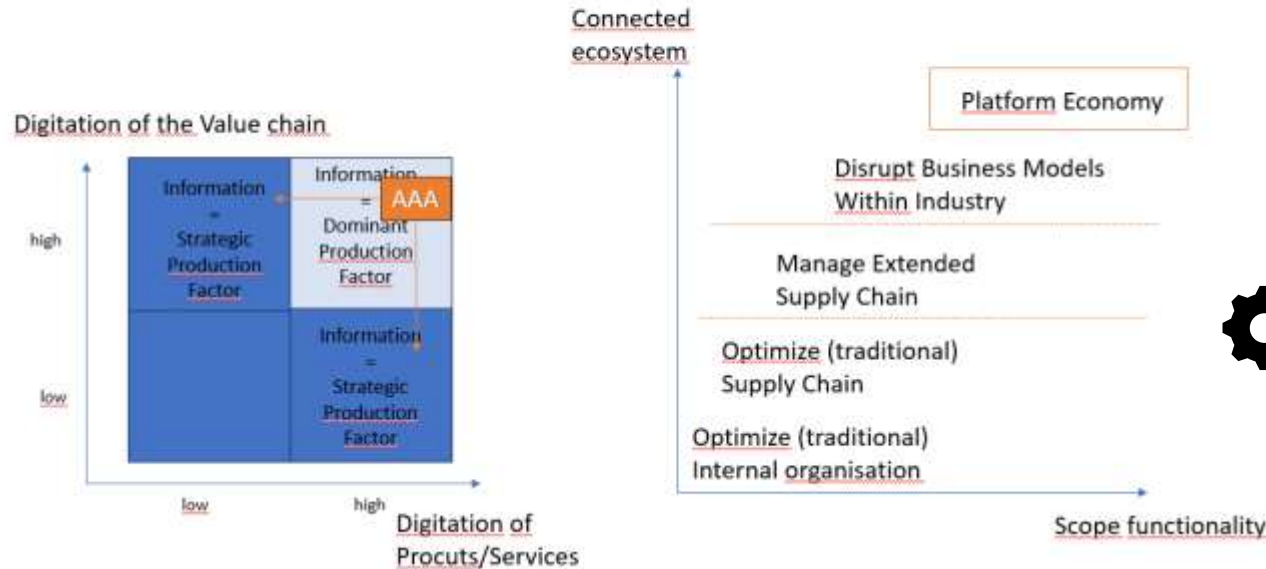
# *Digital Transformation* – a big opportunity – also for SME



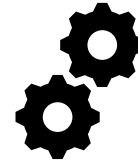
# Digital Transformation

changes in business models – changes in analytics

## Changes in Business Model / Value Chain

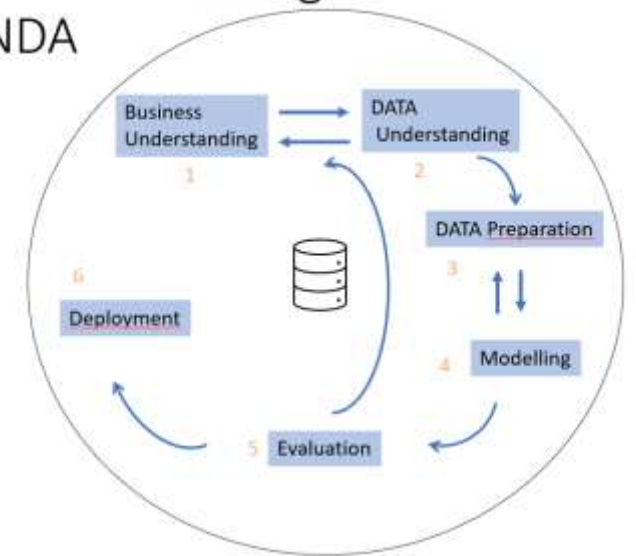


agil



## Digital Transformation – Changes in Data Analytics - AGENDA

- New Data
- New Methods
- New Technologies



Economical potentials

New business	Monetise	Disrupt
existing business	Optimise	Leverage
	existing data	New data

Source: Andreas Seufert – Data Driven Decision Making

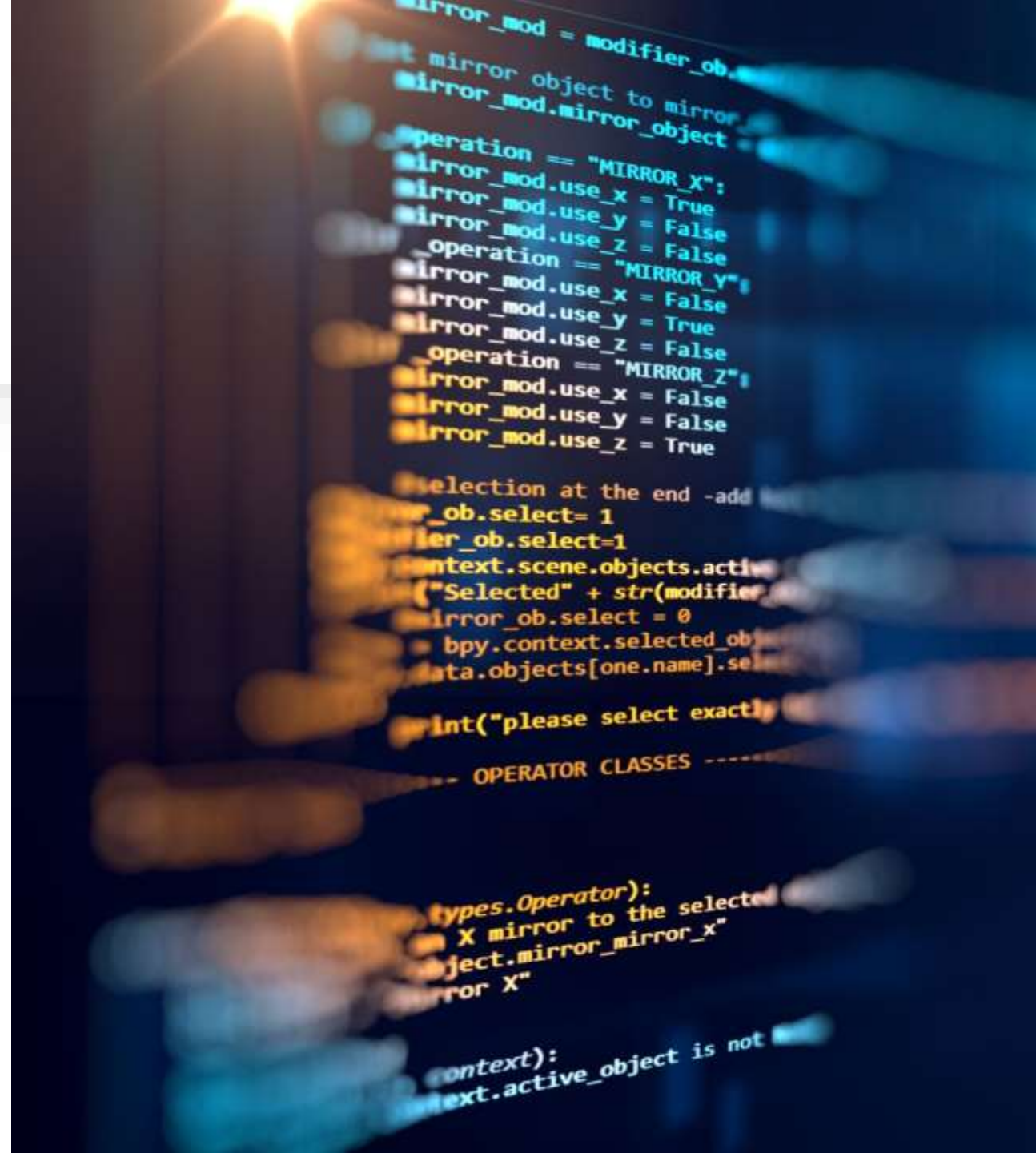
# ML / AI - what is it about? Is it something for controllers to?

Problem – understanding of business by IT people...

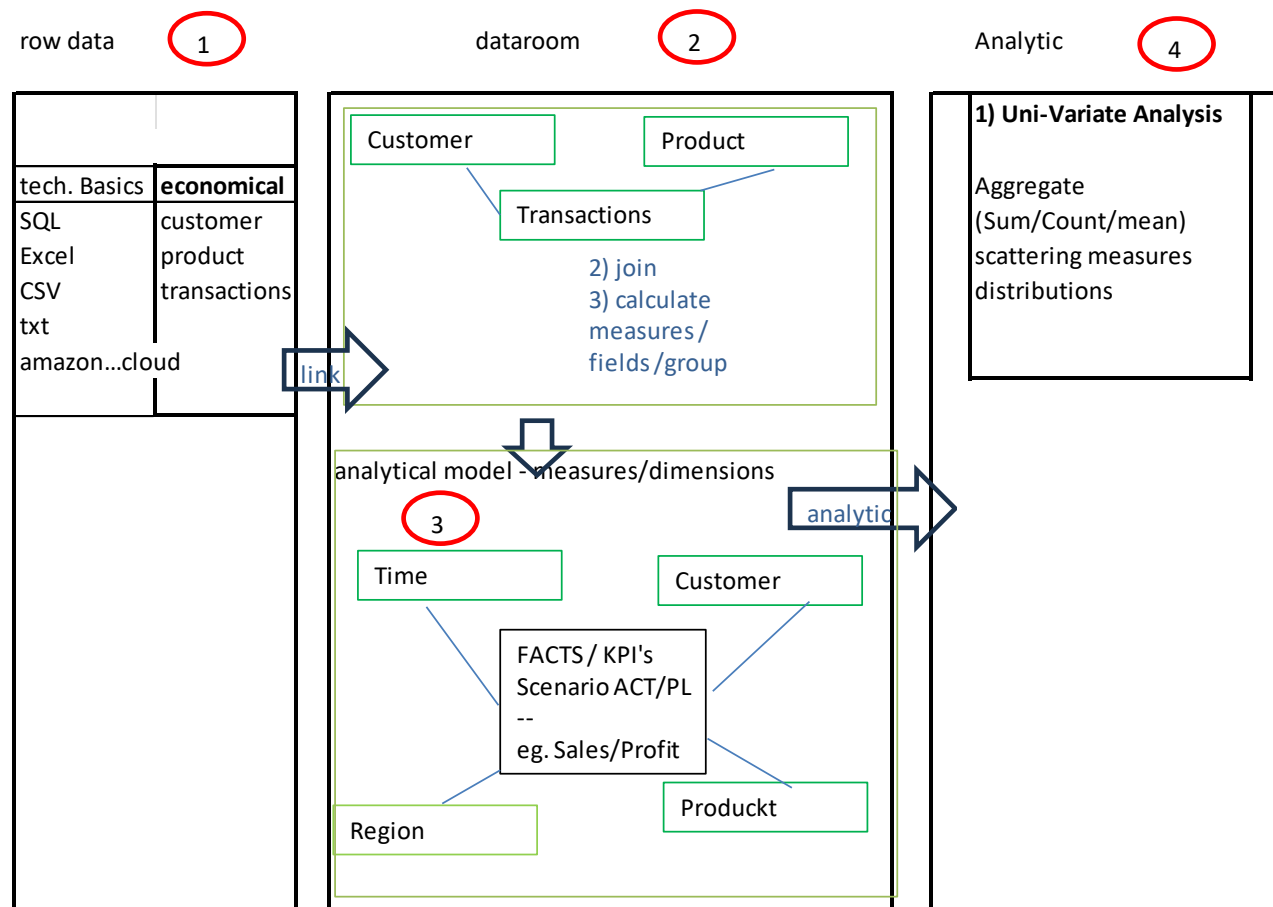
What is needed?

- Basic statistic knowledge
- Understanding of data / data types / models
- Low code – now code tools

**GENERATE – ACTIONABLE INSTIGHTS from DATA!**



# Information from DATA – using of BI / ML/AI



Source: Andreas Seufert – Data Driven Decision Making



A circular graphic on the left side of the slide contains a blurred background image of a financial chart. The chart features candlestick patterns, a bar chart at the bottom, and various trend lines and indicators. A value '1.65' is visible at the top left of the chart area.

# ML / AI – basics - statistic

- 
- Correlation - Connection with the data
  - MULTIPLE CORRELATION
  - REGRESSION
  - Outlier detection

# Statistical basics....

## Classification Error Measures

		Actual		
		True	False	
Predicted	True	True positive	False positive	
	False	False negative	True negative	
		Total		
Predicted	True	200	10	210
	False	10	90	100
Total		210	100	310

Sensitivity	Specificity
<i>True-Positive Rate</i>	<i>True-Negative Rate</i>
$TP / (TP+FN)$	$TN / (TN+FP)$
95,24%	90,00%
True , predicted correctly	False, predicted correctly

**Accuracy**  $(TP + TN) / (TP + TN + FP + FN)$   
(correctly predicted class / total testing class) \* 100

93,55%

**Precision**  $TP / (TP+FP)$

95,24%

For good classifiers, TPR and TNR both should be nearer to 100%.  
Similar is the case with precision and accuracy parameters.  
On the contrary, FPR and FNR both should be as close to 0% as possible.

# Gain insights from Your data...Develop Skills for Explainable Self Service AI/ML

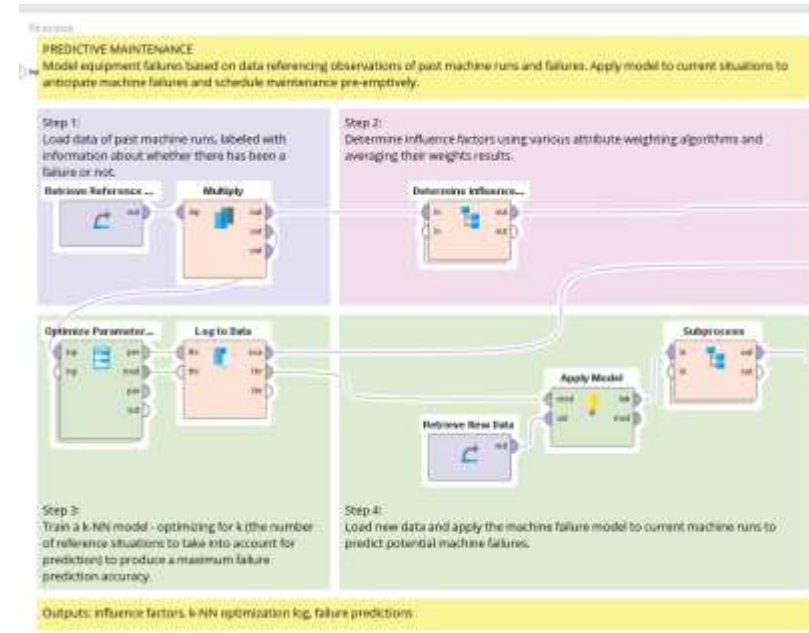
## Business Intelligence

Overcome the limitations of BI...  
(aggregate data, numbers only,  
predefined structure)



## ML / AI

Predictions, root cause analytics, simulations,  
Prescriptive analytics  
(detailed data, numbers/text, unstructured)



# Agenda

1. Improvisation – Why?
2. Controlling in SME
3. Digital Transformation – changes
4. Use Case – Example of ML-Model
5. Recommendations



# Use cases

- Forecasting
- Clustering
- Customer satisfaction
- Predictive maintenance
- calculation





# Data Analytics - AGENDA

## New Data

Txt / Cloud /social media etc.

## New Methods

Data Preparation – Power Query

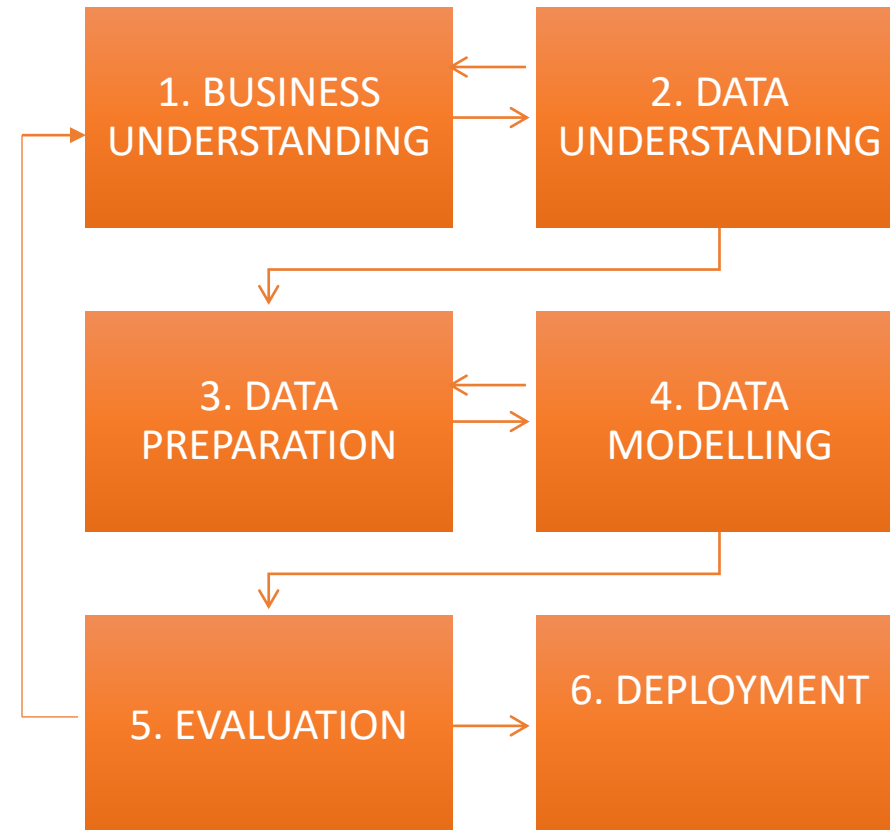
BI / Self-Service BI – Qlik/Tableau / Power BI

ML/AI Tools

*Low code – no code*

## New Technologies

Chat GPT / others



# Use Case – Customer Satisfaction - ML

Deep DIVE: Example of Low code – no code model

id	Gender	Customer Ty	Age	Type of Travi Class	Flight Distan	inflight wifi	Departure/Ai	Ease of Onli	Gate location	Food and dri	Online boar	Seat comfort	inflight enter	On-board se	Leg room se	Baggage han	Checkin serv	Inflight servi	Cleanliness	Departure Dc	Arrival Delay	satisfaction
39076	Male	Loyal Custon	30.760	9 Business tra	1174	2	4	2	4	2	2	1	3	1	5	3	4	3	3	0	4.0	neutral or dissatisfied
22454	Female	Loyal Custon	17	Personal Tra	208	3	1	3	3	5	3	5	5	2	5	5	3	4	5	0	0.0	neutral or dissatisfied
43510	Female	Loyal Custon	43	Personal Tra	752	3	5	3	5	5	4	5	3	3	3	5	3	3	4	52	29.0	neutral or dissatisfied
58779	Male	disloyal Cur	37	Business tra	1182	5	3	3	4	1	3	1	1	4	1	5	1	4	1	9	0.0	neutral or dissatisfied

## Input for Model

Age: 30.760

Arrival Delay in Minutes: 15.203

Baggage handling: 3.666

Checkin service: 3.340

Class = Business: 0.516

Class = Eco: 0.415

Class = Eco Plus: 0.070

Cleanliness: 3.329

Customer Type = Loyal Customer: 0.830

Customer Type = disloyal Customer: 0.170

Departure Delay in Minutes: 14.833

Departure/Arrival time convenient: 3.024

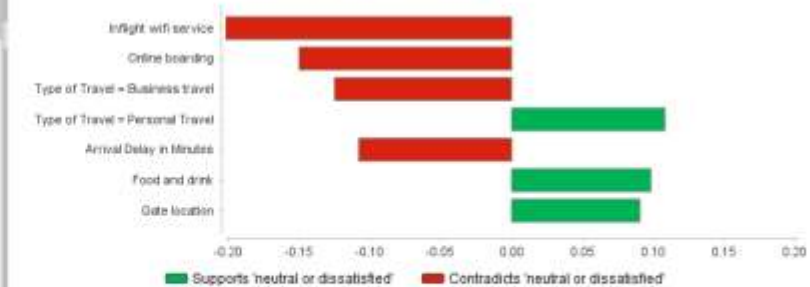
Ease of Online booking: 2.788

Prediction: **neutral or dissatisfied**

Most Likely: **neutral or dissatisfied**



Important Factors for **neutral or dissatisfied**



## Interpretation

Select your inputs on the left to see the model's reaction on the right. The model is pretty sure that this is a case of **neut**

# Agenda

1. Improvisation – Why?

2. Controlling in SME

3. Digital Transformation – changes

4. Use Case – Example of ML-Model

5. Recommendations





## Controller in the SME as enabler of digitalisation

- Connect different data types – ERP / Text Data / Web data
- Analyse processes
- Think outside the box
- Analyse the most valuable use cases
- **In SME – the CONTROLLER should develop to DATA SCIENTIST and BUSINESS PARTNER/ YOU are the Innovator!**

# How to develop to a data driven-decision making in a SME?

- Focus on the pain points in your organisation – **use cases with business focus**
  - Find data affine people...take them from daily business – **take the people on the journey**
  - develop **skills for DATA Analysis**
  - Second level support – work with specialist – hotline for help
- 
- Define Requierments - support from outside...**DEFINE strategy**
  - Define **Project – agile**
  - Talk about data - **Analytics is more then self-service**



**“Data is not information, information is not knowledge, knowledge is not understanding, understanding is not wisdom” (Clifford Stoll)**



**There is a place for IMPROVISATION too**



Key to success:  
Synergy of data driven  
decision making and  
improvisation

THANK YOU for YOUR ATTENTION 😊

**Mariusz Rzeźnikiewicz**

LinkedIn

