



SAP Datasphere & Business Data Cloud in 2026

The New Face of Data in SAP. How Companies Build an Advantage in the Era of AI and Regulations?

PRACTICAL GUIDE

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1. Why Act Now?

Key Trends and Business Pressure

2026 is a pivotal year for SAP-driven organizations. On one hand, there is growing demand for fast financial, controlling, and operational reporting. On the other hand, new regulatory requirements are emerging: ESG reporting in line with CSRD, extended tax obligations, auditability of indicators, and increasing industry oversight.

At the same time, boards expect data to fuel AI – which means building consistent models, federating data sources, and strong data governance. Companies no longer want multi-year BI projects. They expect results in weeks, not years. In this context, SAP Datasphere and Business Data Cloud become strategic elements of data transformation.

**The data world is entering a new phase.
Organizations seek solutions that:**

Simplify migration from
BW/BW4HANA to the cloud

Connect SAP and non-SAP data
without complex integrations

Reduce dependency
on single-source systems

Support regulatory
reporting (ESG, CSRD,
ESEF, taxes)

Cut BI/AI implementation timelines
from months to weeks

Provide a unified data model
for AI and planning



2. Datasphere and Business Data Cloud – What They Really Are

SAP Datasphere and Business Data Cloud are often misunderstood or oversimplified. Datasphere is a modern data management platform that enables consistent and repeatable integration, modeling, sharing, and securing of SAP and non-SAP data. It is not a “new BW” but the foundation of a data architecture oriented toward data products and multi-source integration.

Business Data Cloud, on the other hand, extends Datasphere with data sharing across systems and platforms, ready-made business models, and native integrations with industry partners and AI. Together, they create an environment where the company builds a central nervous system for data – designed for the future.

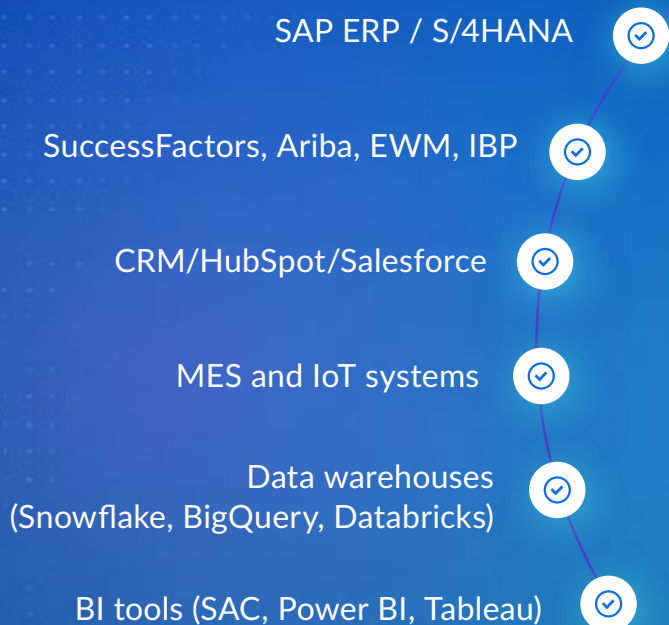
Element	AP Datasphere	SAP Business Data Cloud
Role	Data and modeling layer	SAP + partners + AI data ecosystem
Scope	Integration, modeling, federation, governance	Marketplace, data products, AI services, data harmonization
What it provides	One data model for BI/planning	Scalability and cross-system integration + AI tools
Common misconception	“It’s the new BW”	“It’s just marketing”

3. Reference Architecture – Datasphere’s Role

Modern data architecture assumes data comes from multiple sources: SAP S/4HANA, financial and logistics systems, HR applications, CRM platforms like Salesforce or HubSpot, MES production solutions, and cloud/AI systems. Datasphere acts as the glue, helping organizations avoid tool chaos and excessive data duplication.

Architecturally, this means one place where agreed data models, KPI definitions, and a logical business layer are created, serving reporting, planning, and AI models simultaneously. This is the foundation for unified reporting and decisions based on reliable information.

Global data layer for:



Michelle
Associate
Business
Manager



4. Data Products Model – The New Standard for Data Design

More organizations are abandoning the “project-based” approach in favor of thinking in terms of data products. A Data Product is not just a table or report – it’s a fully defined data component describing a business process, e.g., sales, costs, production, or energy consumption.

Each Data Product includes a business definition, responsible owner, data model, metadata, update rules, and direct BI tool connectivity. This prevents repeated creation of the same indicators, ensures consistency, and enables controlled self-service analytics.

It’s a simple way to rapidly scale analytics across large organizations.

Data Products Model

A standardized, ready-to-use data package representing a business process or KPI.

The model includes:

- **Business description and identification** of the data owner
- **Data model** with KPI documentation
- **Data interface** (e.g., API or connector for BI tools)
- **Metadata and data lineage**
- **Quality parameters:** SLA, refresh frequency, quality certification

Why it works

- ✓ Accelerates delivery by 40–70%
- ✓ Guarantees KPI consistency
- ✓ Enables governed self-service BI
- ✓ Harmonizes SAP + non-SAP data for AI and analytics

5. Real Use Cases

– Where Datasphere and BDC Deliver Value

The greatest potential of the solution is seen in finance and controlling. Organizations use Datasphere to create a unified P&L model, consistent cash flow analysis, and centralized controlling reports combined with driver-based planning in SAC. As a result, month-end closing takes days instead of weeks, and forecasts become more accurate.

The second key area is ESG and non-financial reporting. Datasphere enables the integration of environmental, supplier, production, transport, and energy data into an auditable reporting process. This forms the foundation for CSRD compliance, as well as cost optimization and emission reduction.

Other areas include pricing and sales – thanks to the integration of CRM, ERP, and e-commerce data, it becomes possible to analyze customer profitability, pricing, and margins in real time, as well as build predictive demand models.

In production, Datasphere connects SAP data with MES, IoT, and quality processes, paving the way for true OEE, traceability, and predictive maintenance.



Finance & Planning

- Unified P&L and cash flow models
- Driver-based planning in SAC
- Month-end closing reduced from weeks to days
- Profitability and cost-to-serve analysis



ESG & Regulatory Reporting

- Integration of environmental, supplier, and logistics data
- Emission and material traceability
- ESG dashboards for executives and auditors



Sales & Pricing

- Real-time profitability and margin analysis
- Predictive demand forecasting
- CRM/ERP/e-commerce data integration



Production / OEE / IoT

- Real-time machine monitoring
- Component traceability in production
- Energy consumption analysis at line and product level
- Predictive maintenance powered by IoT and MES data



6. Migration from BW – How It Really Works

Migration isn't a copy-paste exercise. Successful strategies are hybrid, balancing existing BW logic with Datasphere's flexibility. Transition can be phased – no downtime, no analytics freeze.

Scenario	When to choose
Federation & gradual migration	BW works, need flexibility
Lift & shift + refactor	BW critical, cloud target
Greenfield	New models/KPIs, quick results
Hybrid	Large organizations with global systems

Key principle:

Migration to Datasphere does not mean copying BW 1:1.

7. How We Work – Sii Framework

Sii offers ready-to-use implementation approaches and accelerators that significantly shorten platform launch time. Our packages include both BW migration and prebuilt data models for finance, ESG, sales, and production. In every project, we deliver architecture, governance, complete data models, and team training, ensuring the solution is mature from day one.

We work in a modular way to simplify the start and enable scaling according to needs and budget.

Ready accelerators:

- BW migration package
- ESG & Energy accelerator
- Profitability & Planning template
- Integration with Power BI / Azure / Salesforce / MES

What we deliver:

- Target architecture blueprint
- Data model implementation
- Governance & Data Catalog setup
- Business and IT training
- Ongoing support and evolution

8. Is Your Organization Ready? Starting Criteria

You're ready if you aim for consistent data, self-service analytics, or S/4HANA migration. If KPI standardization, faster reporting, AI readiness, or ESG compliance are priorities – now is the time.

Readiness checklist:

- ✓ Do we have clear data priorities and KPIs?
- ✓ Are we operating under a “single source of truth” model?
- ✓ Do we have a master data and governance process in place?
- ✓ Are we planning migration to S/4HANA or BI expansion?
- ✓ Do we want self-service BI with quality control?
- ✓ Are we considering AI, predictive analytics, or machine learning?

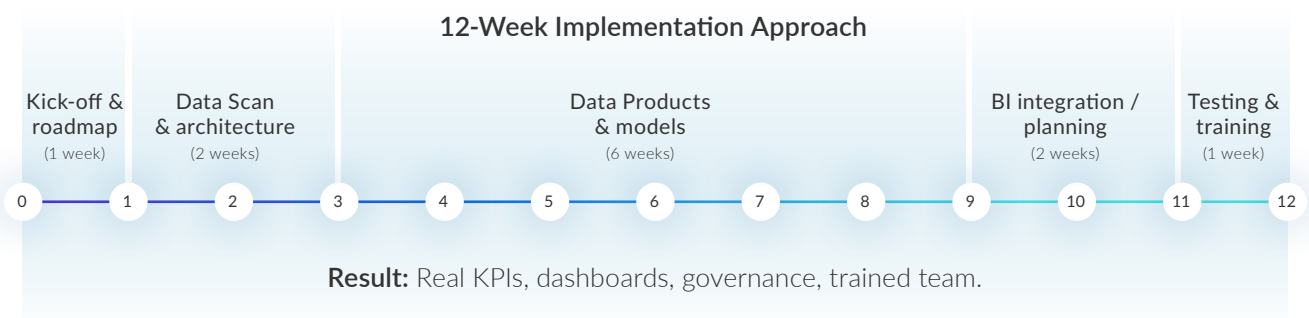
3+ YES answers → *Your company is ready for Datasphere/BDC.*

9. Implementation in Practice

- The 12-Week Approach

Implementing Datasphere and the first Data Products doesn't have to be a lengthy transformation program. Our project model covers data analysis, model design, pipeline setup, and delivery of ready-to-use reports in just 12 weeks. At the end, the client team is fully trained, and the solution is ready to scale.

This approach minimizes risk and allows you to move from theory to real business value in a short time.



10. Implementation Team

SAP Partner

As a certified SAP partner, Sii provides comprehensive services for global brands like Bridgestone, Qiagen, BSH, and Frosta. We support clients throughout the entire lifecycle – from business needs analysis and system design to implementation, integration, testing, training, and continuous improvement.

End-to-End Support

We support clients at every stage of the project lifecycle – from business needs analysis and system design, through implementation, integration, testing, and training, all the way to production go-live. Sii specialists work in line with the SAP Activate methodology and industry best practices, ensuring structured and predictable implementation support. Our commitment doesn't end at go-live – we provide ongoing maintenance, system development, and strategic advisory to support the long-term evolution of your SAP environment.

140+ certified SAP experts

Sii teams include specialists in areas such as Solution Architects, Functional Consultants, and Technical Developers, covering key SAP domains like finance, logistics, production planning, and procurement. Thanks to this comprehensive expertise, we deliver solutions precisely tailored to technical requirements and business objectives.



Let's Talk About Your Needs

If you want to test Datasphere and Business Data Cloud using your company's data, discuss BW migration, or start an ESG/controlling project – we invite you to get in touch.

We offer a **free Data Readiness Scan** to help define key steps, costs, and project timelines.

[Discover our offer](#)

Employing over 7 300 Power People, Sii is a leading provider of technology consulting, digital transformation, as well as engineering and business services in Poland.

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