The power of alignment

Convene together your most senior finance executives. What do you find? Most likely they bring ten divergent agendas to the table. The problem is misaligned teams are ill equipped to tackle high priority challenges that span the entire finance organisation.

In our Finance Labs, we routinely see teams begin the day with a host of differing viewpoints and agendas—only to leave at the end of the day with a shared set of goals and plans to achieve them. That’s powerful. And it can be nearly impossible to accomplish when operating in business-as-usual mode; our Finance Labs are anything but business as usual.
In the span of a single day, you’ll work through a broad range of experiences carefully designed to spark productive action. First-hand participation in one of our Labs is a fast, tested way to gain command of your most pressing finance issues.

Amid challenges on multiple fronts, finance executives often must make hard choices about where to spend their time. For executives looking to accelerate toward improved performance, Deloitte’s Finance Labs are an effective resource.

Where it matters

A laser focus on tightly defined issues is the essence of our Finance Labs. Participants and facilitators alike begin the day with a clear challenge in mind—and a rigorous agenda for attacking it from every angle.

Below are Labs we have conducted across a wide range of industries and sectors. The list expands and evolves in tandem with the issues finance organizations encounter.

- The Business Partnering Lab
- The Close Lab
- The Investor Relations of the Future Lab
- The Executive Vision Lab
- The IPO Readiness Lab
- The Service Delivery Model Lab
- The Finance Talent Lab
- The Tax Transformation Lab

Resolving these types of big issues can take months of meetings and workshops. The Finance Lab methodology really sped up our ability to make big decisions.

Steve Hare
CFO, Sage Group

Triggers

Any significant obstacle is a trigger for a Lab. As such, our model enables us to create Labs that target virtually any issue. Below is a representative list of common triggers that make our Finance Labs relevant to your needs.

Alignment & engagement

Maybe you have a vision for where you want to go, but so does everyone else—and for whatever reason, they’re having a hard time coming together. A Finance Lab can be instrumental in breaking that logjam.

Change

Change is another classic trigger, particularly a change in personnel. We conduct many Labs with newly minted CFOs and other prominent finance leaders. They’ve just taken on a new role, and need to achieve a particular vision (or refine that vision), and need a tangible plan to move forward.

Speed

Need a quick way to move the needle on an issue? Or maybe you’re not ready to take on a major transformation, but still need to diagnose and address specific problems swiftly? A Lab can help you get there faster.

Direction

Often, finance leaders come to us when they’ve lost direction on a particular issue or need to revisit an ongoing course of action. It happens all the time, even in well-run finance organizations. Maybe they’ve been focusing on ten other things, but now that eleventh thing threatens to impede their vision. And they don’t know where to begin. We can help pave the path.
More than a meeting

So what makes Deloitte’s Finance Labs any different from the next meeting? Demonstrated repeatable results.

Five key attributes
Each Lab incorporates five key attributes, honed from years of experience working directly with CFOs and other finance leaders.

1. Research-based content
   Our Labs rely on empirical data, original research, and dialogue with subject-matter specialists, both internal and external to Deloitte, to guide the experiences.

2. Immersive methods and exercises
   Expect exercises that draw from behavioral research, team dynamics, and conversations with your own people to maximize Lab participation. We’ve developed, sharpened, and tested interlinked exercises to take participants through the Lab journey. These intelligent designs enable us to harness the full power of each individual. We engage practitioners in a specific way so that each person contributes to help shape every outcome.

3. Relevant subject-matter specialists
   Deloitte has the reach and relationships to tap experts with hands-on experience on the issues most important to you and your team.

4. Seasoned facilitators
   It takes experience and discipline to make significant progress on a tough challenge in a single day. That’s exactly what our facilitators bring to the process. They are trained in the art of engagement, intervention, disruption, ideation, and alignment, freeing up others to actively participate in the discussion.

5. Consciously designed environment
   If you want new ideas and fresh thinking, it helps to have a space conducive to innovation. That’s why Deloitte built a Lab space with dynamic room configurations, immersive visuals, and cutting-edge technologies to engage participants. Lab spaces are designed to help stimulate perspectives and optimize exploration.
Your day in the Finance Labs

While each Finance Lab is different, many tend to follow the flow outlined above. Each step is supported by exercises, meeting props, and discussion tools designed to drive maximum value from our time together.
Right now, there’s a stubborn challenge facing your finance organisation. But it’s solvable if you build momentum, tap the insights of others in your position who faced similar challenges, think creatively about how to tackle the challenge, and carve out time to make meaningful change. The single day you spend in the Labs can be more impactful than a year’s worth of meetings.

Take the first step and reach out to us.

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