

General Ledger/Shadow Ledger

Highlights:

- Each general ledger account balance can be broken down into account balances reflecting original transaction currencies
- Suits any implementation scenario as it can cover any extension level from full-size general ledger to specific shadow ledger considering selected products and valuation elements
- 360-degree breakdown and drilldown to configurable portfolios, individual deals, accounting transactions, valuation results and even underlying cash flow plans
- Support of period-end tasks such as zeroisation of profit and loss accounts or FX valuation
- Consolidation considering intra-company and inter-company deals depending on the level of consolidation

The blueprint Financial Accounting contains a general ledger.

This general ledger supports multiple GAAPs in parallel.

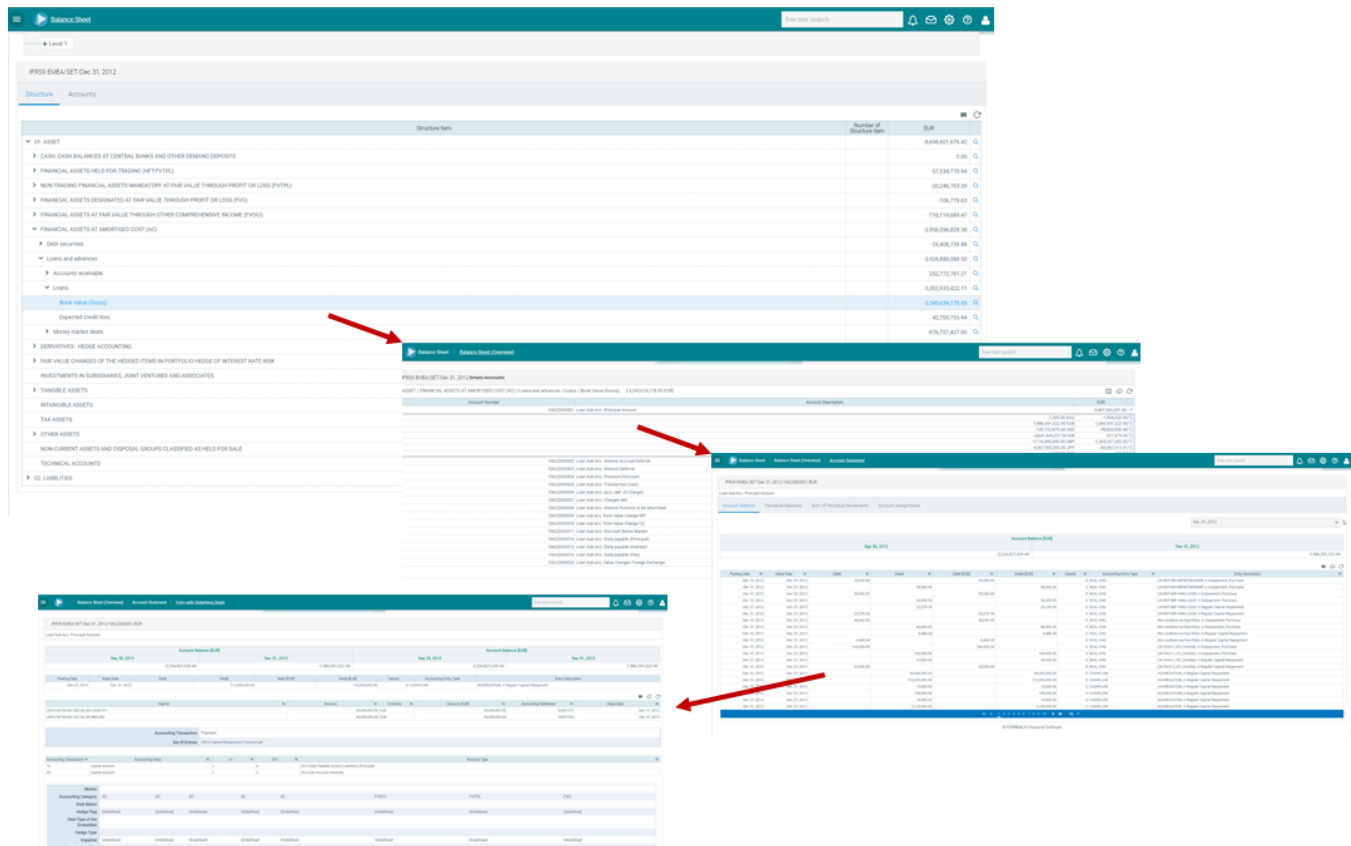


Figure: Drilldown from general ledger account balance

A General Ledger consists of

- Balance Sheet
- Profit and Loss
- Off-Balance

It can deal with

- Multiple GAAPs in parallel (The General Ledger contains a separate chart of accounts for each GAAP)
- Multiple tenants (The General Ledger supports consolidated views)
- Multiple currencies (The General Ledger keeps all bookings in original transaction currency as well as in functional currency)

The General Ledger

- Allows analysis at account, product, customer, business and project level with results aggregated at account / cost center level

General Ledger/Shadow Ledger

- Allows more accurate and efficient product control as entries are made at detailed and consolidated levels
- Enables easier automation of reconciliation with minimal manual intervention as detailed or transaction-based data can be tracked and analysed in multiple dimensions

In a multi-GAAP environment, it is possible to run e.g. a full-size general ledger for IFRS and a shadow ledger light for local GAAP which focusses on the specific valuation elements for a specific portfolio.

There are various options available for integrating the general ledger into the entire solution architecture:

- Full-size general ledger: as such it contains the full balance sheet (statement of financial positions) as well as the profit and loss account (income statement). It can accommodate financial instruments as well as non-financial instruments.
- Shadow ledger: as such it is limited to financial instruments or even a selected product portfolio only (e.g. loan ledger)
- Shadow ledger light: as such it is limited to financial instruments or even a selected product portfolio only (e.g. loan ledger) and in addition it only covers an excerpt of valuation elements for the relevant portfolio (e.g. it only covers entries related to the valuations of loans)

The main difference between the shadow ledger options is which analysis and evaluation functions can be provided at single transaction level for the audit trail for the general ledger account balances and revenues.

If the tool is supposed to provide comprehensive analysis and evaluation options, it should be implemented as a shadow ledger or general ledger.

If the solution is implemented as a shadow ledger or shadow ledger light, a third-party tool needs to be installed as a general ledger. This external ledger can be fed with debit/credit entries. A specific data mart exists for this purpose.

The implementation of the tool as a general ledger must be consistent with the use of an additional third-party general ledger. Usually the drilldown and analysing functionality of the solution exceeds by far the capabilities of third-party ledgers. Therefore it might be reasonable to use the solution as a general ledger while keeping an existing external general ledger in place for specific requirements such as legal reporting (that is not saying that the solution is not capable to also deal with this requirement, but maybe to keep existing tools in place for several reasons at a certain point of time).

General ledger account balances are based on debit/credit entries.
Sources for debit/credit entries can be:

- Import of credit/debit entries at general ledger account level
- Accounting Rules Engine