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BC Partners Build a Vital Knowledge Base with iLEVEL

BC Partners is a leading alternative investment manager focused on private equity, credit and real estate across Europe and North America. Learn more at bcpartners.com.

Challenge

With a diverse and fast-growing global portfolio, BC Partners needed to gain deeper visibility into their investments.

"We couldn't collect and consolidate data across multiple firms and a lot of assets, or run the analytics needed to understand what was going on across portfolio," explained Lirong Chen, who is leading Portfolio Monitoring and ESG at BC Partners.

The lack of visibility and data consistency prevented BC Partners from monitoring portfolio performance and generating value-added insight.

Solution

The firm implemented iLEVEL five years ago, but the platform's true value was unlocked when Lirong joined the team in early 2018 and redesigned the process and system in collaboration with the deal and operations teams within BC Partners as well as CFOs, controllers and senior management teams at portfolio companies.

She began by identifying the data priorities for each stakeholder group and then mapped the data points to a standardized template that supported cross-portfolio analysis. She also streamlined business processes to improve operational efficiency, assigning clear responsibility to varies stakeholders.

"We are now seeing the longer-term benefits of building up knowledge on the platform."

Result

In six months, the platform has transformed the way BC Partners collects, monitors and analyzes portfolio data, enabling deal teams and senior management to learn from a wider range of assets and use those learnings to improve decision-making.

Lirong also piloted the creation of web-based dashboards for the leadership team that gives them access to real-time data in a highly visual format that's iPad-friendly and accessible on- or offline.

"We are now seeing the longer-term benefits of building up knowledge on the platform," said Lirong. "We can collect data from our portfolio companies from the moment the deal closes to the time they exit five or six years later, and we can use it to monitor performance and metrics across the portfolio. This gives us an early indication if the asset is on track to achieve the results set in the investment case, and more importantly, lets us intervene sooner if assets are underperforming."

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