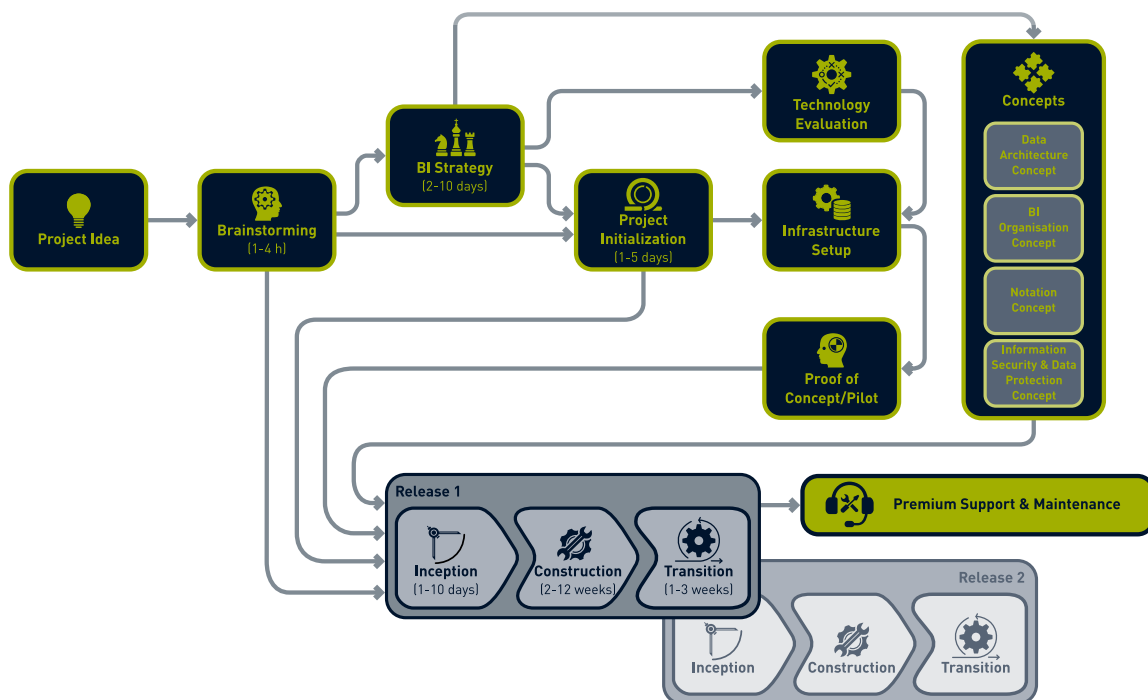




“What are the costs of this BI project?” That is a fair question. Stakeholders, especially project sponsors, want to know how much money they must spend to get a new BI/DWH system. The topic of costs and later contracts typically appear when ramping up your project or even a multi-project BI initiative. The figure below shows an overview of potential steps before you actually start developing the new solution:



The steps before the first release help to shape the overall scope of your BI initiative. Of course, not every step is mandatory. Some can jump directly to the first release after a first ideation workshop. Others want to run a few project initialization workshops first or even elaborate a BI strategy. After all, we shouldn't estimate the cost of the project but predict the cost based on past projects with a similar overall scope. Probably you want to run a short pilot implementation to validate the prediction in practice. Afterwards you freeze the cost aspect, at least per release. That means you will work on the scope of the release throughout the inception and construction phase always having in mind, that time and budget are fixed.

Agile contracts are less focused on clarifying every detail of what should be delivered but rather how the collaboration between the contract parties look like: They should explain the joint (agile) mindset and principles to follow, how releases and release phases are defined, which Way of Working the team will consider, what team roles you want and how you govern the agile team, what is the rough initial scope and the initial architecture strategy (known at signing the contract; knowing that it might still change).