

International Success

KiK Completes LFS Integration in Eastern Europe

KiK Textilien und Non-Food GmbH (KiK) continues to rely on the supply chain expertise of the Ehrhardt Partner Group (EPG). Following the successful launch of the LFS warehouse management system at the newly built distribution center in Rabowice, Poland, the system is now also fully operational at the Kostolné Kračany site in Slovakia. With the completion of the hypercare phase, KiK reports an entirely positive outcome: EPG impressed with a structured, collaborative implementation, in-depth process knowledge, and a smooth go-live — both in Poland and Slovakia. Together, the two modern logistics centers form the backbone of the supply network for over 4,200 stores across 14 European countries.

The implementation of LFS was not just a technical challenge, but above all a collaborative project that crossed national borders. The central logistics team in Bönen, local staff on site, the SAP team, and EPG's supply chain specialists worked closely together in a tightly coordinated effort. The excellent alignment among all parties involved was particularly praised. "The way the go-live was executed on site — it was truly first-class," emphasized Michael Frölich, Managing Director of KiK Logistik GmbH. "The project team was exceptionally well-prepared, communicated as equals, and was consistently solution-oriented."

142,000 Picks per Day

Kostolné Kračany demonstrates what modern warehouse logistics can achieve. Covering 46,000 square meters and offering around 40,000 pallet spaces, the LFS system manages all processes—from chaotic warehousing with an integrated FIFO principle to precise inventory traceability. The average daily throughput is 112,000 picks, with a record high of 142,000 picked units in a single day. In addition to textiles, the facility also handles seasonal non-food items such as decorations and toys. Specialized areas support the storage of hazardous materials and temperature-sensitive products like confectionery and beverages. Modern mobile data entry (MDE) devices and tablets are used throughout the facility, ensuring smooth process integration and transparent quality control from goods receipt to shipping.

Unified IT Structures as a Foundation for Scalability and Efficiency

With the implementation of LFS in Poland and Slovakia, KiK is pursuing a clear digital strategy: standardizing processes, harmonizing IT structures, and integrating new locations more quickly. Integration with the central SAP ERP system was achieved via standardized interfaces. Numerous custom extensions, such as for managing external warehouses or handling complex picking logic, highlight the system's flexibility. A key success factor was the well-designed training concept. Employees were prepared for the new LFS using a hands-on approach in a test system. Lessons learned from the Polish rollout were deliberately applied to the implementation in Slovakia—an excellent example of effective knowledge transfer.

“The successful implementation of LFS at two international sites is the result of exceptionally close and trusting collaboration,” says Alain Linder, Team Lead Project Management Consulting at EPG. “Strong process knowledge on both sides, clear communication, and a shared goal made this project a true model for success.”

At KiK Logistik's headquarters in Bönen, preparations for the next expansion phase are already underway. In the future, LFS will also control a fully automated high-bay warehouse with pallet conveyor technology at that location.

Future-Oriented: Real-Time Data, Transparency, and Paperless Processes

After going live, KiK continues to work closely with EPG to further develop its digital logistics landscape. Already today, the analytics tool TIMESQUARE provides meaningful real-time KPIs on pick times, warehouse utilization, and inventory transparency—an essential foundation for data-driven optimization.

The next milestone is the introduction of a digital delivery note. Currently, a physical packing list is still included in each shipment, but going forward this step will be completely paperless, from goods receipt to shipping. “With LFS, we haven't just implemented a powerful warehouse management system—we've created a future-ready platform that evolves with our needs, both technically and operationally,” summarizes Frölich.

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EPG – Smarter Connected Logistics

EPG is a leading international provider of a comprehensive supply chain execution suite (EPG ONE™) and employs 1000+ people in 23 locations across the globe. The group of companies offers its more than 1,600 customers WMS, WCS, WFM, TMS and voice solutions for optimizing logistics processes – from manual to fully automated logistics environments. EPG's solutions cover the entire supply chain: from warehouse and road to ground and cargo handling solutions at airports. Logistics consulting, cloud services, managed services and logistics training in the company's own academy round off EPG's comprehensive range of solutions.

About KiK Textilien und Non-Food GmbH:

KiK stands for "*Kunde ist König*" ("The customer is king")—a guiding principle that has shaped the company since its founding in 1994. KiK Textilien und Non-Food GmbH offers women's, men's, children's, and baby clothing in good quality at the most competitive prices. In addition to apparel, the product range includes household goods, home textiles, party and gift items, toys, decorations, and much more. With over 32,000 employees and more than 4,200 stores across Germany, Austria, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Hungary, Slovakia, Croatia, Poland, the Netherlands, Italy, Romania, Bulgaria, Spain, and Portugal, the company generates an annual net revenue of €2.4 billion. KiK ranks among the top ten textile retailers in Germany and has offered online shopping via www.kik.de since 2013.

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