

BUCHAREST UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMIC STUDIES
Council of Doctoral University Studies

Doctoral School

Economic Informatics

**MODERN APPROACHES TO OPTIMIZING SUPPLY CHAIN
MANAGEMENT (SCM) ACTIVITIES IN ORGANIZATIONS**

Elena Puică

PhD. Coordinator: Prof. univ. dr. Marinela Mircea

Bucharest, 2025

CONTENT

1	INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE THESIS	1
1.1	MOTIVATION OF THE RESEARCH	1
1.2	STRUCTURE OF THE THESIS.....	2
1.3	CONTRIBUTION TO THE SCM FIELD AND THESIS OBJECTIVES	6
1.3.1	Contribution to the SCM field.....	6
1.3.2	Thesis objectives	7
1.3.3	Connection between the thesis and scientific publications	9
1.4	CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK AND RESEARCH HYPOTHESES	12
1.5	RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	16
1.5.1	Justification of research objectives and questions.....	16
1.5.2	Selection of research methods and tools.....	17
1.5.3	Data sources and methodological limitations.....	18
2	THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS AND LITERATURE REVIEW	21
2.1	DEFINITIONS AND KEY CONCEPTS IN SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT..	21
2.1.1	Basic definitions of SCM.....	21
2.1.2	Key SCM concepts	23
2.1.3	Role and importance of IT solutions in SCM.....	35
2.2	TECHNOLOGIES USED IN SCM.....	38
2.2.1	Cloud Computing in SCM	41
2.2.2	Big Data Analytics (BDA) in SCM	42
2.2.3	Internet of Things (IoT) in SCM.....	45
2.2.4	Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) in SCM	48
2.2.5	Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) in SCM	52
2.2.6	Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) in SCM	53
2.3	MODERN STRATEGIES AND METHODOLOGIES IN DESIGNING IT SOLUTIONS FOR SCM	56

3 CHALLENGE ANALYSIS, PERFORMANCE EVALUATION, AND IDENTIFICATION OF OPTIMAL SOLUTIONS	63
3.1 CHALLENGES AND RESPONSES IN THE ADOPTION OF IT SOLUTIONS IN SCM.....	63
3.1.1 Strategic barriers	65
3.1.2 Organizational barriers	69
3.1.3 Security barriers	74
3.1.4 Financial barriers.....	79
3.1.5 Technological barriers	83
3.1.6 Administrative barriers.....	88
3.2 EVALUATION OF THE IMPACT AND EFFICIENCY OF IT SOLUTIONS IN SCM...93	
3.2.1 Criteria used to assess the impact of technologies in SCM.....	95
3.2.2 Performance metrics in SCM	103
3.2.3 Measurement of technology performance metrics in SCM.....	104
3.3 TECHNOLOGY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS IN SCM	112
4 CASE STUDY - MODERN APPROACHES TO EXISTING TECHNOLOGIES AND IT SOLUTIONS IN SCM	115
4.1 IDENTIFYING KEY CHALLENGES	115
4.2 NECESSITY AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROPOSING AN IT ARCHITECTURE IN SCM.....	
4.2.1 Necessity of proposing an IT architecture in SCM	129
4.2.2 Opportunities for proposing an IT architecture in SCM.....	131
4.2.3 Objectives of proposing an IT architecture in SCM.....	135
4.3 PROPOSED IT ARCHITECTURE FOR SCM	136
4.3.1 General description of the IT architecture for SCM.....	136
4.3.2 Conceptual framework of the architecture	137
4.3.3 Justification for the use of proposed technologies.....	150
4.3.4 Data and process flow in the proposed architecture.....	152
4.4 CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE CASE STUDY.....	156
4.4.1 Technological contributions	156
4.4.2 Business-level contributions.....	157
4.4.3 Academic contributions	158
4.5 INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS.....	158

4.5.1	Main conclusions	159
4.5.2	Observations and personal perspectives	159
4.5.3	Discussions	159
5	DISSEMINATION OF ORIGINAL SOLUTIONS.....	161
6	FINAL CONCLUSIONS.....	165
	REFERENCES	168
	APPENDICES	180

KEY WORDS: *Technologies in supply chain; Modern Supply Chain Management (SCM; Intelligent Supply Chain Management (SCM); Technological architecture in supply chain*

SUMMARY

The doctoral thesis titled "*Modern approaches to optimizing supply chain management (SCM) activity in organizations*" contributes to the modernization and optimization of supply chain management (SCM) through the integration of emerging technologies. The research identified critical challenges in SCM, such as lack of visibility, data fragmentation, insufficient collaboration, and security vulnerabilities, proposing an innovative IT architecture to address these needs.

The proposed architecture combines technologies such as IoT, RFID, Cloud Computing, Big Data Analytics (BDA), Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning (AI/ML), and ERP, offering scalable and adaptable solutions. It ensures real-time visibility and traceability, reducing processing times and operational errors, while the integration of Cloud facilitates data centralization and collaboration among partners. Logistic process automation, advanced cybersecurity, and compliance with international regulations complete the proposed structure, supporting the performance and trust of organizations in SCM.

The results demonstrate that integrating emerging technologies enhances operational efficiency, improves demand forecasting, and optimizes resource utilization. The theoretical and practical contributions of the research provide a solid foundation for the gradual implementation of IT solutions in SCM and open new avenues for future research. The main conclusion is that digital transformation in SCM is a strategic necessity, and the proposed architecture offers a solution for addressing contemporary challenges and creating more efficient, resilient, and sustainable supply.