



DEVELOPING A PURCHASE PROCESS

Case: Prisma Peremarket AS

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this thesis was to describe the current purchase process of women's clothing department at Prisma Peremarket AS, define the problems concerning the process and to suggest development actions to solve the problems. The solutions for the problems were based on the theoretical part of the thesis.

The data used for the case study was gathered by qualitative means working at the case company as a purchasing assistant and observing the daily routines of the department. Additional information concerning the current purchase process was acquired by interviewing the personnel of the department. The theory for the thesis was gathered by researching literature on the subject.

Purchasing was stated to be an important operation in a company, since it is closely associated with profitability. In order to make good purchases, the purchasing personnel of a company should possess core competences needed. Literature research pointed out that core competences are the factors that distinguish a company from others. Together with strategic processes, core competences build a company its core capabilities, that form the company's competitive advantage not only currently, but also in the future.

The results of the case study revealed a fact that routine purchasing tasks consumed too much time and obstructed the personnel from strategic tasks that could create competitive edge for the company. The time consumption problem would be solved by changing the way of doing purchases.

If more time for competence management would be arranged, the company could use the competence development tools introduced in the theoretical part of the thesis. These tools were SWOT analysis used for analyzing strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats, process opening chart used for clarifying relations of tasks, yearly clock for scheduling the development actions and competence charts for personnel's self evaluation.

Other findings brought forth by the study were that the company's IT systems and information flow should be developed.

Key words: Purchasing, purchase process, competence management tools, Prisma Peremarket AS Lahden ammattikorkeakoulu Degree programme in international business

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TIIVISTELMÄ

Tämän opinnäytetyön tavoitteena oli kuvata Prisma Peremarketin naisten vaatteiden hankintaosaston nykyinen ostoprosessi, määritellä prosessiin liittyvät ongelmat ja ehdottaa kehitystoimia ongelmien ratkaisuksi. Kehitystoimet perustuivat opinnäytetyön teoreettiseen osuuteen.

Case -tutkimuksessa käytetty aineisto kerättiin kvalitatiivisia tutkintamenetelmiä käyttäen työskennellen kyseessä olevassa yrityksessä hankinta-assistenttina havainnoiden osaston päivittäisiä toimia. Hankintaprosessiin liittyvää lisätietoa kerättiin haastattelemalla osaston henkilökuntaa. Tietoa opinnäytetyön teoreettista osaa varten kerättiin tutkimalla aiheeseen liittyvää kirjallisuutta.

Ostotoiminta todettiin tärkeäksi toiminnaksi yrityksessä, koska se on läheisesti kytköksissä yrityksen kannattavuuden kanssa. Jotta yrityksessä tehtäisiin hyviä hankintoja, on ostohenkilökunnalla oltava tarvittava ydinkyvykkyys. Kirjallisuuden tutkinta osoitti, että ydinkyvykkyys on se tekijä, joka erottaa yrityksen muista. Yhdessä strategisten prosessien kanssa ydinkyvykkyys muodostaa ydinosaamisen, joka muodostaa yrityksen kilpailuedun sekä nykytilassa, että tulevaisuudessa.

Case -tutkimus osoitti, että rutiininomaiset ostotoiminnan tehtävät kuluttavat liikaa hankintahenkilökunnan aikaa ja ovat esteenä strategisille tehtäville, jotka voisivat luoda yritykselle kilpailuetua. Ajankäyttöongelma tultaisiin ratkaisemaan muuttamalla ostamisen tyyliä.

Kun osaamisen johtamiselle olisi järjestetty lisää aikaa, yritys voisi käyttää opinnäytetyössä kuvailtuja osaamisen kehittämisen työkaluja. Näihin työkaluihin kuuluvat SWOT analyysi, jota käytetään analysoimaan vahvuuksia, heikkouksia, mahdollisuuksia sekä uhkia, ydinprosessien avaaminen, joka selventää eri tehtävien välisiä suhteita, vuosikello, joka aikatauluttaa hankintatoimien käytön, sekä kompetenssitauluko, jota käytetään itsearviointiin.

Lisäksi tutkimus osoitti, että yrityksen tulisi kehittää IT järjestelmiä, sekä tiedonkulkua henkilökunnan välillä.

Asiasanat: Hankinta, hankintaprosessi, osaamisen hallinnan työkalut, Prisma Peremarket AS

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1 INTRODUCTION

Purchasing is an important topic, since it forms, depending of the field of business, 50-80 percent of total expenses of a company (Iloranta & Pajunen-Muhonen 2012, 21). Competence management is important, since companies can develop their productivity by three ways: technologically, gaining capital intensity or by developing intellectual capital; competence (Koskinen 2006, 9-10).

1.1 The aim of the research and limitations

The aim of this thesis is to describe the current purchasing process at Prisma Peremarket AS, define the problems and suggest developing ideas and follow-up research. In order to do this, the thesis first introduces the reader to a purchasing process. To develop purchasing actions, competence of the purchasing personnel has to be developed. Thus, this thesis also introduces competence development tools to the reader.

As figure 1 describes, the thesis has three main focus areas; purchasing operations, competence management and the case study.

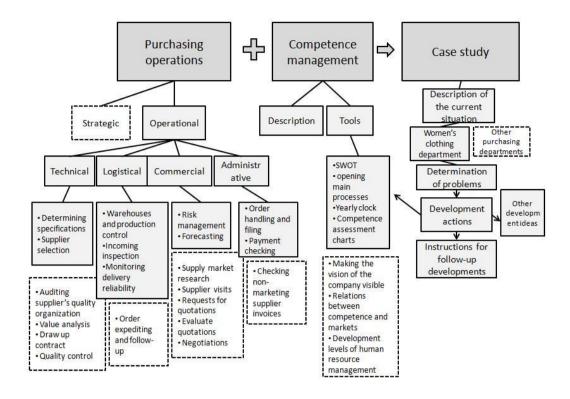


FIGURE 1. Topics and limitations of the thesis

Purchasing concerns both products and services. However, this thesis concentrates on purchasing products unless other stated. Purchasing operations consist of not only operational tasks, but also strategic tasks, such as risk management. This thesis focuses on operational tasks. However, strategic side of the purchasing is discussed on the third chapter with competence. The Purchase process part concentrates on describing operative purchasing tasks and is divided into four categories, which are: technical, commercial, logistical and administrative. Each category is explained and two to three purchasing operations concerning the specific category are described.

The third chapter defines competence and introduces competence management tools. Since there are numerous tools for competence development, this thesis introduces four of them.

The first goal of the case study of this thesis is to describe the purchasing actions of women's clothing purchasing department of Prisma Peremarket AS Estonia. The second goal is to determine the problems of the department and the third goal is find ways to develop the actions of the department in order to make the work of the department more efficient. To accomplish that, the thesis defines the usual operational purchasing tasks and introduces ways for competence management. The final goal of the case is to give company instructions for follow-up developments.

1.2 Research methods

The theoretical part of this thesis was done by researching literature of the subject. The empirical part of the study is the case study. The author gathered the data for the case mostly by committed observation while working as a purchasing assistant in the company during autumn 2012. In addition, the author interviewed the personnel of the department for further information. The interviews were open interviews, based on questions, which were prepared beforehand. In conclusion, the research methods used in this study were qualitative. (Qualitative Vs. Quantitative Research 2013)

The first goal of the empirical part was to determine the current tasks of the purchasing staff. This is part was done with the interviews and through own observation as working as a purchasing assistant. The second goal was to find out ways to develop the competence of the purchasing personnel and to see, whether some tasks can be altered to less time consuming or to delete totally from the task list. This is accomplished by combining the findings of the empirical study with the theory introduced in the previous chapters.

1.3 The structure of the thesis

As figure 2 presents, this thesis starts with an introduction of the subject and the object of the case study. The second chapter focuses on purchasing and thus determines the word purchasing and focuses on the operative purchasing tasks.

The third chapter focuses on competence development, defines the most important concepts concerning competence and explains the reader the importance of competence development. The chapter ends with description of competence development tools, which are SWOT analysis, opening of main processes, yearly clock and competence assessment charts.

The fourth chapter is the empirical part of the study and explains with examples, what the purchasing department is doing currently. It also defines the problems of the case company concerning purchasing operations and gives some development ideas.

The fifth chapter concludes the thesis.

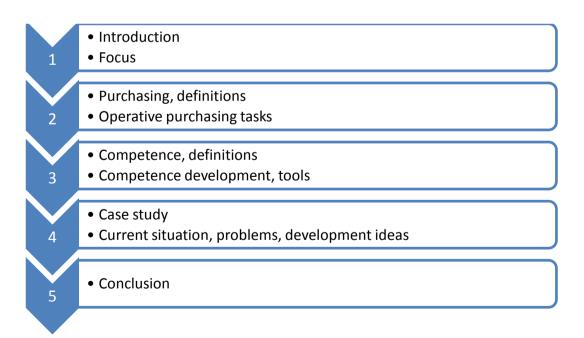


FIGURE 2.The structure of the thesis

2 PURCHASING

2.1 What is purchasing?

Purchasing is the activity of acquiring goods or services to accomplish the goals of an organization. (Business dictionary 2013)

A list adapted from logistics study material 2009 by professor Virolainen categorizes the objectives of purchasing as such:

- 1. To supply the organization with a steady flow of materials and services to meet its needs.
- 2. To buy efficiently and wisely, obtaining by an ethical means the best value for every Euro spent.
- 3. To develop staff, policies, procedures and organization to ensure the achievement of the foregoing objectives.
- 4. To select the best supplier in the market.
- 5. To protect the company's cost structure.
- 6. To maintain the correct quality/value balance.
- 7. To monitor supply market trends.
- 8. To negotiate effectively in order to work with suppliers who will seek mutual benefit through economically superior performance.

Purchasing has become strategically and economically important, because purchasing competence has a strong connection with profitability and competitive edge. (Iloranta & Pajunen-Muhonen 2012, 22)

2.2 Purchase process

As figure 3 shows, the main purchasing operations are closely associated with each other. A purchase process consists of tactical purchasing and order functions. The process starts from the internal customer and ends with the supplier. The actual buying in a purchase process does not include the first and the last parts of the process, since usually the actual specifications come from the supplier. (van Weele 2002, 15-16)

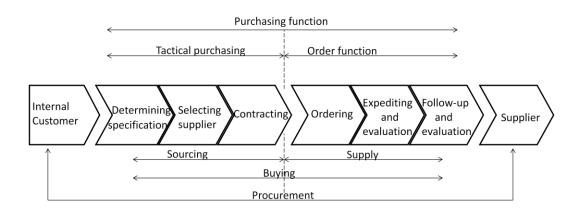


FIGURE 3. Purchase process model (van Weele 2002, 15)

2.3 Operative purchasing tasks

Purchasing actions can be generally divided into four dimensions which are: technical, commercial, logistics and administrative dimensions. (van Weele, 2002, 39)

This chapter introduces the operative purchasing actions based on van Weele's classifications. First the dimension in question is defined and then the operational tasks related to the dimension are listed according to van Weele. Finally two to three examples of the operations concerning the dimension in question are presented.

2.3.1 Technical dimension

Technical dimension concerns the functionality, quality and specifications of the purchased products. Some of the tasks in this category are as follows:

- Determine specifications of goods and services that are to be purchased
- Audit supplier's quality organization
- Value analysis
- Quality control
- Supplier selection
- Draw up contract

Determining specifications

Determining specifications of the order is one of the first tasks of the purchasing process. This stage determines what is to be purchased. This operation is important, because it eliminates possibilities for misunderstandings that can lead to delays and financial losses.

The specifications can be divided into two categories; Functional specifications and detailed technical specifications. The functional specifications specify the functions the product is used for and the technical specifications define the characteristics of the product. Together these specifications form a bigger concept; purchase order specification, which is usually a set of documents. These documents consist of the following parts:

- Quality specifications (Technical details, inclusion of quality certificates)
- Logistic specifications (Product quantities, delivery time)
- Maintenance specifications (Supply of spare parts, maintaining)
- Legal and environmental requirements (meeting health, safety and environmental legislations)
- Target budget (indicates within which financial limits the offer can be accepted)

The responsibility of the purchaser is to make sure that the specifications meet the requirements given by the user of the product. (van Weele 2002, 53)

Supplier selection

There are many details that have to be taken in to account when selecting a new supplier. First of all the offers by different suppliers have to be compared. The first way to compare the offers is the price. Not only sales price should be taken into consideration, but also other factors affecting the price of the product. These factors include for example transportation costs, customs, preparation costs and storing costs. Moreover, when purchasing from abroad the currency rates should be taken into account, since sometimes it is cheaper to buy with the supplier's currency. (Koskinen 1995, 162-163)

Secondly, discounts tend to have a big impact on the supplier selection especially in the retail trade. There are three main discounts; quantity, seasonal and yearly discounts. Quantity discounts are graduated in accordance with the quantity of items purchased. The discount percentage increases together with the quantity purchased. Seasonal discounts are granted on items that are produced continuously, but sold seasonally. The discount compensates companies for the costs caused by long-term storing. Lastly, the yearly discounts are associated with the quantities of the items purchased over the year. Usually these discounts are graduated in accordance with the quantities. The idea behind these discounts is to ensure customer loyalty. (Koskinen 1995, 167)

2.3.2 Logistical dimension

The logistical dimension concerns operations related to optimization of the materials flow from the supplier to the point where the materials are actually needed and consumed. These operations include for example:

- Optimization of ordering policy in co-operation with inventory control
- Order expediting and follow-up
- Incoming inspection
- Monitoring delivery reliability (van Weele 2002, 39)

Warehouses and production control

Warehouses can have a big impact on the costs of invested capital. Every extra product binds capital, so it is important for the purchaser to purchase the right amount of products. Another important factor is to have the products ordered at the right time so that empty warehouses won't hinder sales. Warehouses can be controlled by using JIT (Just In Time) principle, when all the products arrive to the warehouse at the right time and also leave the warehouse at the right time in order to minimize binding of the capital. This principle also helps to get rid of excess storaging. (*Hankintatoimi 2013*)

Incoming inspection and monitoring delivery reliability

Since defected goods and late deliveries add to the expenses of a company, incoming inspection and delivery monitoring are important. The quality of a good should be controlled immediately when receiving the goods. This task does not usually belong to purchasing department, but the purchaser's should be reported about the possible defects not only for the immediate reclamations, but also for the following supplier selections. (Koskinen 1995, 166)

Even if the goods ordered are as requested, the delivery may be late. Late deliveries may have big effects on sales, which is another expense for a company. All the information concerning delivery reliability should be gathered for future supplier selections. With a new supplier, company visits may provide information about both delivery reliability and the quality of the products. (Koskinen 1995, 166)

2.3.3 Commercial dimension

Commercial dimension relates to marketing, co-operation with suppliers, negotiating and contracting. Operational tasks in this category include: (adapted from van Weele 2002 and Hankintatoimi 2013)

- Supply market research
- Supplier visits
- Requests for quotations
- Evaluate quotations
- Negotiations with suppliers
- Risk Management
- Forecasting

Risk management

Strategically important task for purchasers' is risk management. This includes three steps: identification, analyzing and reducing or eliminating effects. It is very critical for purchasers to identify and control the risks in relation to supplier chains and suppliers. From the purchaser's point of view there are two essential viewpoints, which are the supplier orientated risks and risks concerning the whole supply chain and purchasing operations. In order to avoid risks concerning suppliers the purchaser should not only, map out and identify possible risks when choosing a new supplier, but also remap the possible risks considering old suppliers as well. This action makes the high-risk suppliers more identifiable and thus reduces risks. (Hankintatoimi 2013)

According to hankintatoimi.fi the most important questions concerning purchasing risks are as follows:

- Have the changes in the operational environment and the changes caused by megatrends been recognized?
- Has the decline in demand been considered?
- *Has the increase in demand been considered?*
- Have the changes in suppliers been taken into account?

- Has the implementation of new technologies been taken into consideration?
- Have the risks brought by globalization been considered?
- Have the risks concerning the whole supply chain been inspected?

Forecasting

Forecasting the future sales is a remarkably important part of purchaser's job because these forecasts guide the becoming purchases. The accuracy of the forecasts depends on the period of time in question, but as hankintatoimi.fi states, the company in question should have a rough idea of the sales of the becoming year and more accurate idea of the sales of coming months, weeks and days. In short; smaller the time period forecasted is, more accurate the forecast should be. The forecasts for longer period of time guide the strategic planning, whereas forecasts for shorter periods of time guide the production. Forecasts base upon previous demand, orders and market forecasts. (Hankintatoimi 2013)

2.3.4 Administrative dimension

Administrative dimension includes the efficient handling of orders, expediting and the follow up and handling of invoices. The operative functions of this dimension according to van Weele are:

- Order handling and filing
- Checking non-marketing supplier invoices
- Checking payments to supplier

Handling of orders, order confirmations and invoices

Working with orders, order confirmations and invoices are everyday tasks for a purchaser. Purchaser's work can be made more efficient if the overlapping and routine-like tasks are eliminated. In addition to purchaser's tasks, the operations of

the whole supply chain should be taken into consideration, when making tasks more efficient. (Hankintatoimi 2013)

In order to make the tasks in relation to ordering more efficient, the overlapping and repeating tasks can be combined. It should also be taken into consideration, whether some routine-like tasks could be made automatic. (Hankintatoimi 2013)

Advanced information systems and fast data connections offer means of making the purchasing more efficient and gaining more competitiveness. However, if dealing with international supplies, it should be taken into consideration, that developing countries do not have as advanced information systems or internet networks as many western countries do. (Hankintatoimi 2013)

Payment checking

The aim of the payment checking is to make sure, that the payments are in accordance with contracts. In this activity the order, reception and the price on the invoice are compared in order to see that all match with each other. After the invoice has been checked and everything matches, it is sent for an approval. However, if the invoice differs from the order, it is sent back for the purchaser. (Koskinen 1995, 198)

Invoices can be divided into two categories. The first category consists of the invoices of whose price information is used later on in other systems. These invoices include:

- Imported goods, whose exact price depends on custom fees
- Resale goods, whose purchase prices determine the sales prices

The second category consists of the invoices associated with goods and services purchased for company's own use. There are no further actions concerning these invoices. These invoices include for example receiving and collecting goods. (Koskinen 1995, 199)

3 COMPETENCE MANAGEMENT

3.1 Competence is the key for competitiveness

Depending on organizations line of business and the business model, resources acquired outside the organization form 50-80 percentages of total expenses. Thus, it can be said, that purchases dominate the income statement. This is why it is important to develop purchasing competence. (Iloranta & Pajunen-Muhonen 2012, 21)

A firm's competitive advantage depends more than anything on its knowledge, or to be slightly more specific, on what it knows – how it uses what is knows – and how fast it can know something new. (Prusak 1997, ix).

A company can mainly improve its productivity by three ways: technological development, gaining capital intensity or by developing intellectual capital. Technology is basically same to all companies and gaining capital may be difficult for smaller companies. So, developing intellectual capital is now, and will be in the future the secret of success. (Koskinen 2006, 9-10)

Core competencies are what distinguishes a company from others and include special knowledge, skills and technological know-how. Together combined with strategic processes that are used to turn the know-how into products and services that add value to customers and stakeholders they form core capabilities, as shown in figure 4. Core capabilities are the most important resources in accompany and are not easily copied by other companies. Depending on these three elements a company will become successful on the market. (Long & Vickers-Koch 1995, 12-13)



FIGURE 4. The formation and elements of core capabilities (Long & Vickers-Koch 1995)

Not all capabilities are core capabilities. As shown on figure 5, types of core capabilities, capabilities can be divided into threshold capabilities and core capabilities. The generic threshold capability level is a support level. These capabilities mostly serve the internal personnel of a company, for example human resources. The second level of the threshold capabilities is the basic competence level, which represents the essential skills needed for being in a particular kind of business. As the tip of the figure thins, the capabilities change from threshold capabilities to core capabilities. The larger area of core capabilities is the critical competences. These skills and systems are the matters that create company's competitive edge. However, in order to keep the competitive edge in the future, the cutting edge capabilities are needed. This is the sharpest part of the figure. (Long & Vickers-Koch 1995, 13)

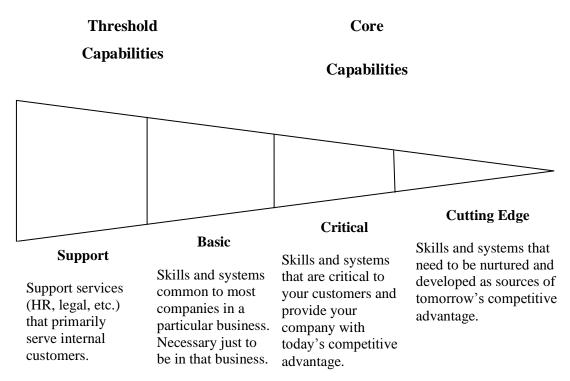


FIGURE 5. Types of core capabilities. (Long & Vickers-Koch 1995)

3.2 Importance of purchasing competence development

Purchasing competence has a direct connection with company's profitability as a survey by McKinsey and Supply Management Institute has shown. The survey detected that the purchasing between the best and the worst companies of the 200 companies surveyed stood out in three ways:

- 1. The best companies trained their employees systematically towards modern purchasing competence and recruited more capable persons with management experience for purchasing tasks. These people had also analytical skills and special skills from the field of business purchased.
- 2. The most successful companies set clearer goals for their purchasing organizations and measured the fulfillments of the goals more widely. The evaluations did not concentrate on savings only, but also measured comprehensive, personalized aims based on the goals of the business.
- The purchasing organizations of the best companies cooperated with other company functions very closely, over the organization borders. The co-operation also included planning and development of products, services, projects and business operations.

The survey shows, that the most successful companies understood purchasing as a highly important operation concerning the development of the company's strategic position. The least successful companies experienced purchasing only as a supporting function and didn't feel like their viewpoint should be changed. The connections between the least successful companies purchasing, product development and marketing functions were thin and the companies did not invest on recruiting and training capable personnel. In conclusion, this research shows that purchasing competence is connected with the profitability of a business. (Iloranta & Pajunen-Muhonen 2012, 23-24)

An old aphorism says: "Growth is acquired with sales, but revenue is acquired with purchasing." The decrease of purchase price increases the revenue and profitability even if the sales stayed the same. This is another important fact to remember when linking purchasing with profitability. (Iloranta & Pajunen-Muhonen 2012, 25)

2.3. Competence management tools

There are many tools for competence management. This thesis introduces four of them. These development tools are eight dimensional SWOT analysis, opening of the main processes, yearly clock and competence assessment charts.

3.2.1 SWOT analysis

SWOT analysis was created in the 1960's and is still widely used. Nevertheless, the basic SWOT analysis with four elements doesn't fill neither the conceptually descriptive depredation process required for a functional analysis tool, nor the requirement for logical consistency. However, a SWOT analysis with eight elements fills these requirements. (Koskinen 2006, 74)

Eight-element SWOT is a good management tool as it combines strategic competence and management in a company. In addition, it combines company's operational environment with its internal efficiency factors. It also takes the future and the vision of the company in addition to the present to the consideration. The SWOT analysis also helps to improve the total view of the issue discussed. Furthermore, it is a good analysis tool to start to sketch future guidelines for a company. (Koskinen 2006, 74)

The SWOT analysis with eight elements is filled as shown in a table 1 in numeric order starting from internal strengths and weaknesses and ending with external opportunities and threats. Concrete, actual, practicable actions that can be taken into action within the internal and external limits are contemplated one field at a time. The developing actions listed must be same operations that the company is working on daily. The actions also have to support the core business of the company and to work towards company actions. The essential guidelines of a company can be also listed roughly with the SWOT analysis. (Koskinen 2006, 74)

A company should use other tools in addition to the SWOT analysis in order to clear out the already existing and in the future required competence resources and essential processes. In addition, it should be taken into consideration that SWOT analysis is based on the information of its authors and this information can be based on false assumptions. (Koskinen 2006, 74)

TABLE 1. Eight-element SWOT analysis table (Koskinen 2006, 75)

	1.Strengths	2.Weaknesses	
Internal	List here the internal things that have been accomplished on organization's own and are clear competitive advantages concerning the business idea.	List here the internal things that are company's weaknesses due to own actions or lack of actions.	
External			
3.Opportunities	5.O+S success factors	6.O+W Weaknesses into opportunities	
List here the primary	List here the created or to	TP -	
external factors	be created success factors	List here the actions	
depending on which the	depending on internal	based on opportunities	
company can execute its	strengths and external	that decrease or eliminate	
business idea. What	opportunities.	weaknesses.	
opportunities does this world offer?			
4 500	- m a m		
4.Threats	7.T+S Threats to under	8.T+W Possible crisis	
List here the external	control	situations	
factors that regardless of	Describe here means and	List here the possible	
the company threat the	mostly strengths that can	crisis situations where the	
company's opportunities	be used to prevent the	internal weaknesses and	
to execute the business	effects by threats for the	external threats meet.	
idea.	company's operations.	(Motivate to deal with weaknesses)	

3.2.2 Opening the main processes

In order to be able to develop its actions, the company has to be able to identify its main processes. Defining organizational level competences is closely associated with strategic planning and is a base for the determination of essential competences for lower levels. (Koskinen 2006, 77)

In figure 6, the main processes with their supporting processes represent the upper level. These processes are divided into activities and tasks. All of these levels must be identified, since all the tasks form chains and processes whose fluency depends on the combinations of the competences needed for each task. (Viitala 2006, 81)

A company should aim to find a mutual vision about the competences that should be developed in order to keep the company successful. (Koskinen 2006, 77)

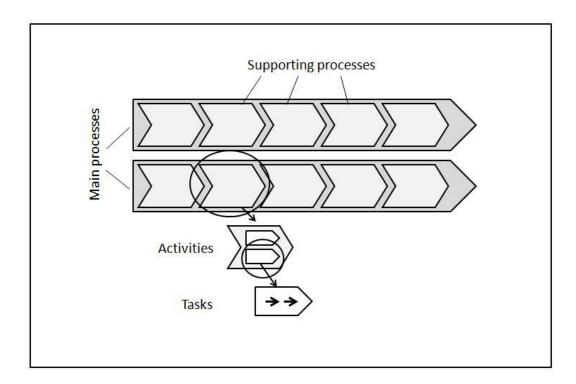


FIGURE 6. From main processes to individual tasks. (Koskinen 2006,77)

3.2.3 Yearly clock

Yearly clock combines developing actions concretely as a part of the company's regular activities. As developing actions are added to the budgeting schedule, the investments to the competence development attain their own space in the operations of the business. A yearly schedule of a company can be, for example based on seasons. The competence development actions should be planned so, that the personnel can use the low season for updating old competences and acquiring new knowledge. (Koskinen 2006, 85)

The development actions should be visible in the company. Thus, more visibility can be acquired by informing about the phases of the development using for example a yearly clock. (Koskinen 2006, 85)

However, a yearly clock is only one way to make sure, that the strategically important development actions are done at the right time. This tool helps concretely to prepare for the changes beforehand and to focus on right resources at the right time. The developing actions planned should be placed on the clock. Figure 7 shows an example of the use of a yearly clock. (Koskinen 2006, 85)

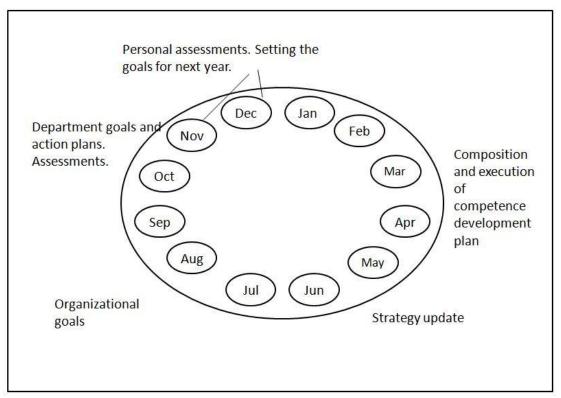


FIGURE 7. Yearly clock (Koskinen 2006, 85)

Yearly clock has been used for example at ABB Motors as part of their competence management process. (Djupsjöbacka 2011)

3.2.4 Competence assessment charts

Competence assessment chart is used for both evaluating personnel's personal competence and for supervisors to evaluate the competence of their subordinates. The chart is drawn based on a specific occupational group or a task and shows not only the current level of the worker's competence but also the competence needs. (Kotonen 2012, 39)

The competences are evaluated based on the work tasks, which are divided into competence levels. There are multiple ways to draw the skill-level chart. This thesis introduces the basic one. The levels on the chart are: novice, advanced beginner, competent, proficient and expert. Table 2 describes the differences between the skill levels adapted from Kotonen's Novice-to-Expert scale. (Kotonen 2012, 40-41)

TABLE 2. Skill levels from novice to expert (Kotonen 2012, 41)

5	Intuitive grasp of situations based on deep tactic		
Expert	understanding Analytic approaches used only in novel situations or when problems occur Vision of what is possible		
	, F		
4	Sees situations holistically rather than in terms of aspects		
	Sees what is most important in a situation		
Proficient	Decision making less labored		
3	Coping with crowdedness		
	Sees actions at least partially in terms of long-term goals		
Competent	Standardiced and routinised procedures		
2	Guidelines for actions based on attributes or aspects		
	Situational perception still limited		
Advanced beginners	All aspects are treated separately and given equal importance		
1	Rigid adherence to taught rules or plans		
	Little situation perception		
Novice	No discreationary judgement		

The next step is to draw a chart which combines competence levels with the work tasks. In the chart the work tasks are placed horizontally so that tasks associated with each other can be found from the same horizontal line. Table 3, adapted from Kotonen's competence chart presents the chart used for purchasers. (Kotonen 2012, 131)

TABLE 3. A purchasing based competence chart. (Kotonen 2012)

Competence area					
Can carry out, evaluate and develop strategic purchasing policy	Forms acquisitions strategy, defines its objectives and monitoring indicators	Formulates strategies and business operations plans in cooperation with suppliers	Plans and directs strategy-guided acquisition operations	Evaluates and develops acquisition strategy	
Is familiar with supplier markets and seeks out new suppliers	Acquainted with supplier markets and looks for new suppliers	Puts suppliers into competitive bidding and evaluates suppliers	Approves new suppliers	Negotiates purchasing agreements	Compares supplier prices and follows price development
Can carry out operative purchasing duties	Creates and sends requests for offers of tender. Compares offers	Carries out orders and/or call-backs based upon recommendations, salesperson orders, alarm- level impulses or forecasts	Makes reclamations and takes care to follow-up their enforcement	Verifies, approves and files purchasing invoices	Follows the realozation of stated objectives and reports purchases

The last step is for the worker's to self-evaluate their competences concerning each task using the skill-level scale presented in the table 2. (Kotonen 2012, 43)

4 CASE: PRISMA PEREMARKET AS

4.1 Introduction

This study explores the purchase process at Prisma Peremarket. The main focus is the clothing department, since its purchasing process is the most complicated one. The clothing purchases for all Baltic Prismas are done by the purchasing department located in Tallinn. The department has approximately 80 suppliers, of which half are foreign and half are Estonian.

Prisma Peremarket AS was founded by SOK and started operating in Estonia in 2000 when the first Prisma hypermarket was opened in Sikupilli, Tallinn. Since then, Prisma has opened five hypermarkets and one smaller express shop in Tallinn, two in Tartu and one in Narva. Prisma Express, opened in 2013 is the newest Tallinn shop and is located in the harbor. Besides these nine stores in Estonia, Prisma Peremarket AS also has five stores in Latvia and three in Lithuania. The most important market area for Prisma is at the moment in Tallinn, where six of the stores are located at. (Interviewee A, 2013)

The locations of the Prisma markets in Tallinn and Baltic countries are presented on the figure 8.



FIGURE 8. Locations of Prisma markets.

The biggest competitors for Prisma Peremarket AS are Selver AS, Rimi Eesti Foods AS and Maxima Eesti OÜ. Prisma's market share in Tallinn is approximately 10 percent. The turnover for the first three quarters of 2012 was approximately 135 million Euros, which means a development of 23% from the previous year. The profit for year 2011 was 574 000 Euros. At the moment Prisma employs 1150 workers in Estonia and approximately 850 employees in other Baltic countries. (Interviewee A, 2013)

4.2 The conduction of the research

This research was conducted mostly with means of qualitative research as the author gathered most of the information observing the daily routines of the department while working as a purchasing assistant during autumn 2012.

In addition, six of the eight workers of the department were interviewed concerning their tasks. Two of the interviewees were assistants and four were purchasers. The interviews were open interviews but were based on a set of questions prepared beforehand. All interviews were recorded. The list of the preliminary questions can be found from appendix 1

4.3 Current situation

As a result of the case study, the current operational tasks were identified. This chapter introduces the most significant tasks one by one. The figure 9 shows the operations described. The yearly schedule of the operations can be seen from the appendix 2.

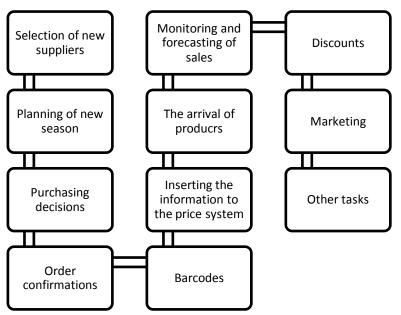


FIGURE 9. Purchasing operations at Prisma

4.4 New suppliers

The new suppliers are acquired in three main ways. Usually new possible suppliers contact the purchasing department on their own. However, sometimes searching of new supplier happens in the internet or on fairs by the purchaser. Another reason to search for a new supplier is based on customers feedback sent from the stores. (Interviewees B & C, 2013)

If the existing suppliers don't have the products asked for, the purchasers start searching for a supplier which has the product they are looking for. If the possible supplier has something purchasers are looking for, the coordinators visit the supplier to see their collection. This visit gives them important information about the quality and price level of the supplier. If the products are what requested, the new supplier will be added to the next season's budget. (Interviewee E, 2013)

4.5 Planning of new season

It can be said, that the actual purchasing process starts in the clothing department when the purchasing manager starts planning for the next seasons sales. If talking of spring 2014 season, this planning starts in March 2013. The purchasing manager gets the yearly budget from the commercial manager. Then the purchasing manager divides the budget between suppliers and makes the purchasing plans. These are made in excel table and sent to purchasers in question. This excel table lists the suppliers and recommendations of how much to buy from each supplier. Figure 10 presents the direction of the information flow concerning budgets.

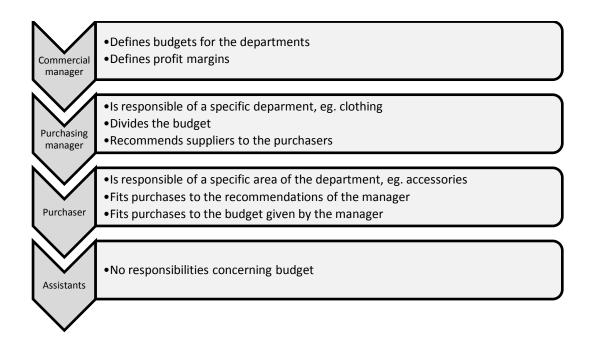


FIGURE 10. Direction of information concerning budgets.

4.6 Purchasing decisions

When the purchasers receive the budget and the purchasing plans, they can start to make decisions concerning the items purchased for the becoming season. Usually the suppliers have catalogues that they send to Prisma for the purchasers to look at. However, some suppliers don't have these catalogues and the purchasers have to visit the supplier to see the products. After seeing the collection, the purchaser decides about the products that will be purchased and requests list of these chosen products from the supplier. The supplier sends the list of products with pictures requested on e-mail.

The decisions about quantities ordered are made considering the shop profiles and budgets. These are made by the purchasing manager of the department. For example in clothing department the most expensive clothes are sold in Rocca Al Mare Prisma. Of course the prices of the products affect the decisions about quantities as well. (Interviewee B, 2013)

For example: The purchasing manager has given instructions to order products worth 700 euro's from supplier A. The supplier has sent their catalogue and prices to the coordinator. The purchaser marks to the catalogue, what and how much she

wants to buy. Then she twiddles numbers in the budget excel to see how the prices and quantities add up.

When the products and quantities have been decided, the purchaser marks the orders on a "book of orders". This book is a catalogue of all items purchased for the season.

Finally the order is transferred to a excel table and sent by e-mail to the supplier. (appendix 3)

4.7 Pricing

The pricing of the products is determined by a list of profit margins (appendix 4). This list is made by the commercial director. The list has all product groups listed and tells the profit margin percentage desired. The final sales price does not have to be exactly the price the profit margin would suggest; the purchasers change the price a little bit to be a nice round price, for example 19,50 instead of 19,32. (Interviewee C, 2013)

However, some famous brands demand pricing according to their own price lists. This occurs mostly with sport brands, such as Nike. (Interviewee E, 2013)

4.8 Order confirmations

When the orders are sent, the suppliers send an order confirmation back to Prisma. Most of the suppliers send their order confirmations on e-mail in a pdf format (appendix 5). However, some suppliers send the order confirmations on regular post. This is where the purchasing assistants come in. Their job is to see that everything is correct on the order confirmation and in case of differences between the order and the order confirmation, contact the supplier. The order confirmations are sent separately for each Prisma shop. This means, that each confirmation has to be checked separately.

When the order confirmations arrive, they are printed out and the checking starts. First the product in question has to be found from the order excel. On the order confirmation there is an article number for each product. Using it, the product can be found using the search command in excel. Then the actual checking starts. Concerning the product in question, the confirmation states the article number, name of the product, size, color, pieces per shop, purchase price and delivery time. Each piece of information has to be checked and confirmed that it is the same as ordered.

If there are some differences, for example price on the order is 18.99 and on the confirmation 19.99, the assistant contacts the supplier by e-mail and asks about the change in the price. Also sometimes some products do not appear at all on the confirmation. The reason for that is sometimes just a mistake on the confirmation, but usually then the product has been cancelled and does not go into production. In this case, the purchaser may make some additional orders.

If the same products are ordered for all 16 shops, it means that the same product is checked 16 times. This is very time consuming and the assistants tell, that this kind of checking is takes approximately 45-50% of their working time.

4.9 Barcodes

Prisma uses EAN-13 barcodes in the products they sell. An EAN-13 barcode is an abbreviation from International Article Number and is a 13 digit barcode. Later on, this thesis refers to EAN-13 barcode as EAN. (Business dictionary 2013)

If everything is correct on the confirmations, the assistant starts inserting EAN codes for the products. Sometimes the EAN codes have to be requested separately from the supplier, but usually they are sent together with the order confirmations. Sometimes the EAN codes are in the order confirmation, but sometimes they are in a separate excel. Sometimes there are also separate codes for different sizes or colors, but in Prisma it is a custom to use only one bar code per article. If the supplier sends a big excel sheet with many barcodes that are not needed, it takes

some time for the assistant to find the exact code she needs. When the barcode is found, it will be added to the order excel. (Interviewee G, 2013)

For example: The order confirmation concerning product AB1 is correct. In addition to the order confirmation, the supplier has sent a separate excel sheet, which consists of EAN codes for all of their products. The assistant copies the article number for product AB1 and finds it from the sheet of barcodes. Then she copies the bar code to the order sheet for a future use.

Sometimes Prisma provides its own barcodes to the products. These can be found in excel chart. Prisma's own barcodes start with 0221900 and as the assistant slides the excel sheets cell down, which creates new sets of numbers in a numeric order. These number sets are the new barcodes for Prisma's use.

4.10 Inserting the product information to the price system

When all the confirmations are checked and EAN codes collected, it is time to insert all the product information to the price system. The assistants feel that the price system program is quite old fashioned and it takes a lot of time to insert all information by hand since all the products have to be inserted separately. They estimate that this task takes approximately 40% of their time.

As the inserting starts, the assistant first changes the barcodes on the order excel into real barcodes that can be read with a scanner. Next the excel table is printed out. Then the barcode of the article in question can be scanned to the price system. If the barcode is Prisma's own, it lacks the 13th number and the assistant adds any number to the series of 12 numbers. Then the price system automatically corrects the last number.

Next task is to insert all information about the product. In the first window, the system asks for article name and number, product group number and other classifying information; for example colors and size range in case of clothing. Then the quarter of arrival of the good is marked as Q1, Q2, Q3 or Q4. Also the quantity in which the item is sold is inserted in this window. Usually the number

is 1, but sometimes there can be for example a package of 3 pairs of socks and then the number is 3.

Lastly, the purchase price and the sales price are inserted to the system and it calculates automatically the profit margin percentage. Then the item is activated and the inserting of product information is ready. After this the assistant prints out a report from the price system and double checks that everything is in order.

4.11 The arrival of products

Depending on the product, it arrives straight to the shop or goes to the preparation centre called EVK. All clothing and sports items and some home decorating items go to the EVK where hangers and security elements are added. The information of the arrivals goes to the purchasers so they can see whether the products arrived with right quantities and on right time. If any problems with deliveries occur, the purchaser contacts the supplier.

For example: Rubber boots were ordered for the autumn 2012 season. However, as the goods arrived to the preparation centre, the workers there noticed, that considerable amount of boots were broken. The EVK manager contacted the purchaser of the shoe department, who then made reclamation to the supplier.

4.12 Monitoring the sales

The purchasers also monitor the circulation of basic assortment goods. This is done by taking sales reports from DW program, which is a reporting system. Sometimes this is done by assistants, sometimes by purchasers. The report is taken usually monthly and daily. If additional orders are needed, the assistants send an order sheet to the shops. The shops decide what and how much they want to order and the assistants send the additional orders to the suppliers. (Interviewees D & G, 2013)

At the end of the season the assistants or purchasers add the sales quantities to the "book of orders" where all the orders for the season can be seen in pictures. This way it is easier to plan the next season's sales. Some purchasers, for example in sport department add weekly sales to the excel sheet which shows how much have been ordered. This way the excel shows the order quantity, the sales quantity and how much is left. This helps in planning of additional orders or discounts and knowing, which items have to be taken off from the Internet page. (Interviewee F, 2013)

4.13 Forecasting the sales

All purchasers mention that forecasting the future sales is very difficult. This can be done only with basic assortment goods. Then the sales of the previous seasons are calculated and the averages are formulated. The averages are used to see a kind of a trend. It seems like forecasting methods are not really used.

Question: "What kind of forecasting methods do you use?" Answer: "Well.. It depends on many things. It is difficult to always forecast the future sales. When concerning outdoor clothing, the weather is a big factor. I usually look at previous sales and with basic assortments I look at previous years. It gives me some averages that the clothes usually sell. How prices, models and colors effect on sales... That comes mostly from previous experience." (Interviewee B, 2013)

4.14 Discounts

Prisma has two major discount periods; at the end of spring and autumn seasons. Spring season discount prices are decided in May-June by the purchasers. The discount percentages are decided after analyzing the sales. After the decision on the products discounted and the discount prices the assistants change the prices in the price system. First two discounts are done at the office and all the items have to be discounted separately. This takes also time from the assistants, since only

the last discount is done in the shops. In the past inserting the discounts into the price system was done in the shops, but the shop workers didn't seem to quite understand the discount method. This led to different discount prices in different shops so the discounting had to be moved for the purchasing assistants to do.

4.15 Marketing

As Prisma has opened its new Internet pages, the purchasing department has to do some marketing tasks. These tasks include adding product information to the internet page. This happens so, that the purchaser first decides which items should be put online. Then either the supplier send some samples or the assistants go to the store to find the samples. Then the assistants photograph the items and add them to the internet with product information.

Every week when the sales reports have been analyzed, the purchasers tell the assistants, which items have been sold out. Then the assistant removes the sold products from the web page. (Interviewee F, 2013)

The assistants tell that they sometimes have some other tasks concerning marketing as well. The problem with these tasks is that the marketing department doesn't give enough information about how to do this kind of tasks. The assistants feel like those random tasks are not their job to do.

4.16 Other tasks

Besides these tasks described above, the purchasing staff has many smaller tasks as well. These include solving quick questions and problems, for example answering to different requests.

Visiting competitors' stores is a monthly task for the purchasing departments. This is usually done by assistants, who visit all the competitors and compare prices of basic products. After price comparison, the prices in Prisma will be adjusted a little if needed.

Assistants also have some tasks concerning accounting; writing and send special invoices to suppliers. These invoices include bonus invoices and marketing invoices. Another accounting task on purchasing department concerns purchasers as well. This task is checking mistakes from the invoices. Sometimes the accounting department finds out that something doesn't match and sends an excel sheet to the purchasing department for checking. After finding the differences, the purchasing department contacts the supplier to clarify the numbers.

4.17 Results, problems and development ideas

As a result, four main problems were identified, as presented in table 4. These problems were: lack of competence, time consumption, old IT systems and the information flow. The following chapter introduces the problems and the solutions one by one.

TABLE 4 Problems and solutions

Problem	Solution
Lack of competence	 Competence management tools Yearly clock Opening the main processes Competence assessment charts SWOT analysis
Time consumption	 Bulk orders instead of separate orders for all shops Mutual order confirmations from the suppliers Moving non-purchasing tasks to other departments
IT systems	Benchmarking better IT systems from SOK Finland
Information flow	Increase interaction between managers and subordinates

Competence

The study shows that the personnel possess the threshold capabilities needed. However, the purchasers do not seem to have enough competence for the strategic tasks of the purchasing, since all the operational tasks are consuming too much time. For example forecasting methods are not used properly at the department. Lack of forecasting is a risk especially on the clothing department since without forecasting the future sales, the risk on miss purchases increases. Acquisition of too much of wrong type of products leads to multiple discounts, which shakes the profitability of the company. As pointed out in the second chapter on the list of the objectives of purchasing, one of the purchaser's goals is to protect the company's cost structure.

In this situation, the company could use the yearly clock to fit competence development actions to the company's schedule. Then the processes could be opened as shown in the third chapter using the main process opening tool. When the individual tasks are identified, a competence assessment chart should be created and the personnel's competence could be evaluated. This tool would help the personnel to actually identify the core capabilities needed for creating the company's competitive edge in the future. The chart would also show what kind of competences should be acquired. The SWOT analysis can be used for multiple types of evaluations.

Time consumption

In order to make more time for strategic tasks and competence development, the time consumption problem has to be solved. The study shows that at the moment personnel have to concentrate too much on time consuming routine-like tasks instead of strategic tasks creating competitive edge.

The base of this problem is the fact that all orders are done separately for each Prisma store. The solution for this problem is to order one bulk order to all stores and the actual dividing of items for stores would happen in the EVK.

The assistants estimate that presently order confirmation checking and searching for barcodes take 45% of their working time now and the common purchasing style would demand only 20% of their time. Figure 11 shows the time consumption currently.

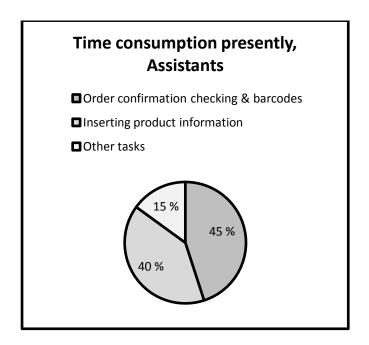


FIGURE 11. Time consumption of the assistants presently (Interviewee G, 2013)

If placing one bulk order would drop the time consumption for order confirmation checking from 45% to 20%, the time-slot for other tasks to increase from 15% to 40%. Figure 12 presents the situation after the change.

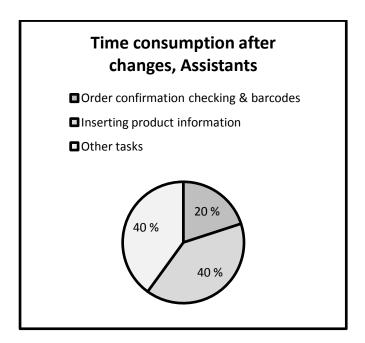


FIGURE 12. Time consumption of the assistant when ordering in bulk

Not only assistants would save their time, but also the workers in the EVK, since they wouldn't have to do the same preparing process 16 times (every shop separately), but prepare all similar items in a row. After the preparation of the products, they would be divided between the shops. This would decrease the preparation costs.

Another plus is that with bulk orders, Prisma could negotiate better quantity discounts from the suppliers.

Another mean to save time would be to demand suppliers to send their order confirmations on a similar excel sheet. Now almost every supplier has their own order confirmation form. However, some small suppliers send the confirmations in a similar excel sheet to the order excel sheet (appendix 6). If all the confirmations would look the same, as in the example of appendix 6, and be in an excel format, the confirmation checking would demand less time, since more excel commands could be used.

To save some more time, some additional tasks, for example writing invoices and small marketing tasks demand time from the assistants and could be moved to

another department. For example invoice writing to accounting and marketing tasks to marketing department.

Other problems

The study also shows that the company uses mostly excel to run the operations of the department. Investing to new IT systems, would also save a lot of time for all the personnel in the company. One way to do this would be to benchmark IT systems from SOK Finland.

The last problem stated in this thesis is the information flow. Especially the way of working with budgets shows that the information flow moves mostly from up to down. Instead of that, the company should make sure, that the information could flow freely between managers and subordinates, as presented in the figure 13. This way the budget wouldn't define the amount of money that should be used for each supplier leading to miss purchases but the budget could be used more freely for products that will have better sales.

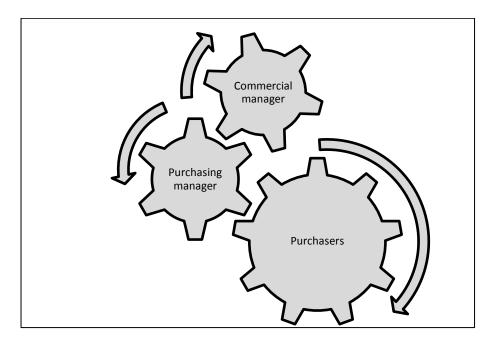


FIGURE 13. Information flow between hierarchy levels.

The study also revealed a fact, that the purchase department for clothing has approximately 80 suppliers. A follow-up research could find out, whether the number of suppliers could be reduced, since the orders from some suppliers are very small, and concentration on fewer suppliers could again bring Prisma more quantity discounts.

5 SUMMARY

In conclusion, the aim of this research was to present the current purchasing process at Prisma Peremarket AS, define the problems, describe developing ideas for the problems and suggest follow-up research. Before that, theory concerning purchase process had to be introduced. Purchasing is an important operation for a company, since it is one of the factors creating the company's competitive edge. It also dominates the income statement and thus purchasing has a big effect on the company's cost-effectiveness.

Purchasing consists of strategic and operational activities. This thesis concentrated mostly on the operational activities with some attention paid to the strategic operations. The purchasing operations were divided into four dimensions: technical, logistical, commercial and administrative. The technical dimension concerns the functionality, quality and specifications of the goods purchased. The logistical dimension concerns operations associated with optimization of the material flow from the supplier to the consumption point. The commercial dimension relates to marketing, negotiating and contracting operations. Lastly, the administrative dimension includes the handling of orders and expediting and follow up of invoices.

In order to succeed, a company's personnel should have the core capabilities needed. These capabilities consist of strategic processes and core competencies. The core capabilities can be divided into two categories; critical capabilities and cutting edge capabilities. The critical capabilities are the skills and systems that provide the company competitive advantage currently. However, in order to keep the competitive advantage in the future, the company's personnel should possess cutting edge capabilities, which are the skills that have to be developed in accordance with future needs.

There are numerous tools for developing competencies. This thesis introduced four of them. The first one was an eight dimensional SWOT analysis, which is an analysis tool that can be used in multiple ways to define the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the subject. After these factors are defined, they are combined not only to describe success factors and possible crisis

situations, but also to list threats to be taken under control and weaknesses that can be turned into opportunities.

The second competence development tool was the opening of the main processes, which is used for identifying tasks inside sub processes. First, the main processes are drawn on a horizontal line. Then the main processes are divided into sub processes, which again can be divided into activities and individual tasks. This tool helps the personnel of a company to see the correlations between tasks and understand the entities of the processes.

The third tool was a yearly clock, which helps an organization to place competence development actions onto a yearly schedule. This tool is important, since companies may have difficulties to fit competence management into their schedules. With the help of this tool, time can be found for all development actions.

The last tool introduced was a competence assessment chart, which is needed for evaluating the competences of the personnel. First, the individual tasks concerning specific occupation are listed in the chart. After that the personnel can self-evaluate their competence concerning the tasks based on a skill level scale from one to five.

The case study of the thesis presented the present situation of the purchasing department of women's clothing at Prisma Peremarket AS Estonia. The study brought forth that the time-consuming, routine tasks obstructed the strategic tasks and competence development. The solution to the time consumption problem was to change the separate orders for each of the 16 stores to one bulk order. This would not only save time for strategic tasks, but also give the company additional benefits in the form of quantity discounts when ordering in bulk. After the time would be managed properly, the competence of the personnel could be managed. Now the company could use the competence management tools described earlier in the thesis.

In addition to this, more efficient IT tools could be used to save time from routine tasks and the information flow between managers and subordinates could be developed.

The reliability of this thesis is good, since in the case of another researcher conducting the same study, the results would be similar. The validity of this thesis is also good, since the right people were interviewed concerning the issues presented in the thesis. The study is based on the theoretic background presented in this thesis. To conclude, the reliability and validity of this thesis is based on the actuality that the references are marked accordingly, diverse data was used and multiple sources were used during the writing process.

In the future follow-up research could be done concerning the suppliers of the department. Since there are approximately 80 suppliers, the research could find out, whether some of the suppliers could be left out. The research should identify which suppliers should be retained and which could be excluded from the supplier list. Concentrating on fewer suppliers could give opportunities for bigger orders and thus quantity discounts.

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Interviewee F. 2013 Purchasing assistant, Prisma Peremarket AS. Interviewed 15 January 2013

Interviewee G. 2013 Purchasing assistant, Prisma Peremarket AS. Interview 15 January 2013

APPENDICES

Appendix 1

List of questions used for the interviews

- What are your tasks as purchase coordinator/assistant? How they are done?
- How many hours per week do you use for each task?
- Tell me about the yearly schedule of purchasing?
- Do you feel like some tasks should not be your responsibility? Which tasks could be given to someone else? To whom?
- What means do you use for:
 - Sales history
 - Sales forecasts
 - Sales prices
 - Shipping costs/time
 - Profitability
- How do you decide what to order?
- Do you think of hidden costs? (Sales preparation, waste, storage..)
- Making the contract
- When do you order new products?
- How do you decide how much to order?
- How do you order? With e-mail?
- What documents do you ask from the supplier? e.g. order confirmation
- Impulse to buy, budget
- Search and evaluation of suppliers
- Making and sending of requests for quotations.
- Comparing the offers
- Making of a purchase contract / order
- Supervision of deliveries
- Receiving the goods
- Measurement of the results of purchases
 - Price
 - Inventory turnover
 - Quality goals
 - Budget goal

Yearly timetable of clothing purchases

January

Orders for the autumn season

Purchases for the basic assortment of this spring season

February

Purchases for the basic assortment of this spring season

Planning of budget for next year's spring season

March

Purchases for the basic assortment of this spring season

Order confirmations for the autumn season

- Information from assistants about cancelled items
- Additional orders

Planning of budget for next year's spring season

Planning of purchasing plan for next year's spring season

Analyzing of the last autumn season

April

Analyzing of the last autumn season

Preparing for next year's spring season

May

Orders for next year's spring season

APPENDIX 2

Yearly timetable of clothing purchases

Discounts for this season's products

Feedback from the shops

June

Discounts for this season's products

July

Basic assortment orders for the starting autumn season

Discounts for this season's products

School starting campaigns

August

Orders for next year's spring season

School starting campaigns

September

Orders for next year's spring season

Analyzing the summer sales

October

Order confirmations for next year's spring season

Analyzing of the last spring season

November

Planning of budget and purchasing plan for next year's autumn

Analyzing of the last spring season

Discounts for this season's products

APPENDIX 2 Yearly timetable of clothing purchases

December

Orders for next year's autumn

Feedback from the shops

Discounts for this season's products

Christmas campaigns

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APPENDIX 3

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	article		720830	720830	723002	721312	726260	26260	726580	724330	726320	723320	724010	725000	723910	723010	899692	722563	264506	254442	719850	724422		7647.80		726791	725030	724955	719280	722760	071827	727111	725121	725121
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APPENDIX 3

spring 2013 (aut 12)

36.15

	3pmg 2013 (ddt 12)	Hin kate %		
		tavoite uusi		Lithuania
	TR4	Eesti	Latvia	margin in %
\vdash	1114	Lesu	Lutviu	margin in 70
1900	1900 M.ALUSSÄRGID,1/2 JA VARRU			
	1901 M.ALUSSÄRGID PIKA VARRUKA			
	1902 M.ALUSPÜKSID - SÄÄRTETA			
	1903 M.BOKSERID			
	1904 M.ALUSPÜKSID PIKAD			
	1910 M.PIDZHAAMA,TRIKOTAAZ			
	1912 M.PIDZAAMA,RIIDEST			
	1920 M.UJUMISPÜKSID			
1922	1922 M.RANNASHORTSID			
	1925 M.HOMMIKUMANTLID			
	1930 M.SOKID,LÜHIKESED			
	1934 M.SOKID,PIKAD			
	1940 M.TRIIKSÄRGID			
1941	1941 M.VABAAJAPLUUSID			
1944	1944 M.SUVEPLUUSID			
1950	1950 M.KUDUMID,VARRUKATETA,TAN			
1952	1952 M.KUDUMID			
1953	1953 M.PUSAD			
1954	1954 M.T-SÄRGID			
1955	1955 M.KOOTUD JAKID			
1957	1957 M.KOOTUD VESTID			
1960	1960 M.NAHKKINDAD - VOODRIGA			
1962	1962 M.KUNSTMATERJALIST KINDAD			
1964	1964 M.TRIKOTAAZHIST KINDAD			
	1965 M.LABAKINDAD			
	1968 M.SUUSA-JA KILEKINDAD			
	1970 M.VILTKAABUD			
_	1971 M.MUUD MÜTSID			
	1974 M.NOKKMÜTSID			
_	1975 M.KOOTUD MÜTSID			
1978				
	1991 M.SALLID			
1992				
1993				
1994				
	1997 M.TRAKSID JMS			
1998				
1999				
2010	2010 M.PINTSAKUD 2019 M.MUUD JAKID JA VESTID			
	2019 M.MOOD JAKID JA VESTID 2020 M.ÜLIKONNAPÜKSID			
2020				
2022	2022 M.TEKSAPÜKSID			
2024	2024 M.LÜHIKESED PÜKSID			

APPENDIX 5 Order confirmation, Cortina spring 13

CORTINA N.V.



Our ref.: FILOMENA

cortina.be



PRISMA PEREMARKET AS

TAMMSAARE TEE 118 D

12918 TALLINN REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA

Order confirmation

Delivery address

PRISMA PEREMARKET AS DISTRIBUTION CENTER PUNANE 42, WAREHOUSE 33

13619 TALLINN

REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA Tel.: 00372 56809 607 Order number: 42.758 Order date: 22/08/12 Customer no: 2.089

Agent: 610

Contactperson:

Your reference : NARVA

					Pieces/	u.p.	
Article	Description	Color	Prepack	Cartons	Pairs	EUR	
Cortina (Classics - Shoes						
364671	M.SANDAALID M.SANDALS	202	B8115	1	15		**
725000	N. KINGAD W.SHOES	YEL	B7200	1	15		**
Cortina (Collection - Shoes						
048583	N.JALATSID W.FOOTWEAR	NAV	B7200	1	15		**
097856	N.JALATSID W.FOOTWEAR	68Q	B6600	1	12		**
111020	P.SANDAALID B.SANDALS	C5P	B5300	1	15		**
127670	P.SANDAALID B.SANDALS	X7W	B4600	1	15		**
128253	P.JALATSID B.FOOTWEAR	K1Y	B1070	1	18		**
128400	T.SANDAALID G.SANDALS	007	B5270	1	15		**
128480	P.SANDAALID B.SANDALS	C5G	B1070	1	18		**
128800	P.JALATSID B.FOOTWEAR	C1B	B2040	1	18		**
128992	P.JALATSID B.FOOTWEAR	J4H	B2040	1	18		**
129593	P.JALATSID B.FOOTWEAR	316	B1070	1	18		**
131172	P.SANDAALID B.SANDALS	DU6	B2040	1	18		**
131692	P.SANDAALID B.SANDALS	F9V	B5300	1	15		**
131752	P.SANDAALID B.SANDALS	C7J	B4600	1	15		**
138050	T.SANDAALID G.SANDALS	VR4	B1010	1	18		**
138982	T.SANDAALID G.SANDALS	DJ3	B2205	4	48		**
141080	P.SANDAALID B.SANDALS	RQ8	B1164	3	36		**
141931	T.KINGAD G.SHOES	E8H	B4600	1	15		**
143100	J.JALATSID G.FOOTWEAR	YJ3	B1070	1	18		**

CORTINA N.V.

cortina.be



Our ref.: FILOMENA PEREMARKET AS
Order number : 42.758

invoices.

Remarks

We preserve the right to deliver your summer goods until April 15th.

COLORS

Cortina Classics

YEL YELLOW 202 BLACK/GREY

Cortina Collection

AM6 BLACK/SILVER/D.GREY

BLK BLACK

CX1 BLACK/BLACK/BLACK/D.GREY

CY6 OFF WHITE/WHITE

C1B L.GREY/TAUPE/M.TAUPE/D.GREY

C1N NUDE/NUDE

C5G TAUPE/SAFARI/GREEN/TAUPE

C5P L.BEIGE/TAUPE/BEIGE

C7J D.NATURAL/TAUPE/TAUPE/D.BROWN
C8Z C.BLUE/WHITE/NAVY/PINK/FUXIA
C9Q TAUPE/TAUPE/SAND/TAUPE

DBN D.BROWN

DJ3 D.FUXIA/PINK DU6 TAUPE/L.BEIGE

D1X E.BLUE/WHITE/C.BLUE/RED
EF7 D.GREY/BLACK/D.GREY
E5G BLACK/WHITE/E.BLUE

E6L MULTI RED/C.BLUE

E7D BLACKWHITE/WHITE:C.BLUE

E8H WHITE MULTI FUXIA

FUX FUXIA

F2G WHITE/LILAC/PINK/L.PISTACHIO

F8N GREYBLUE/WHITE/L.GREY
F8U WHITE MULTI RED
F9V BLACK/TAUPE/BROWN

GRN GREEN

G8Y L.T.BLUE/D.T.BLUE

G8Z C.BLUE/WHITE/WHITE/BLACK/BLACK/BLACK

H1B BLACK/BLACK/L.T.BLUE/E.BLUE H2G BLACK/MULTI D.GREY/WHITE

J4E NATURAL/NATURAL/CORAL/ORANGE

4

APPENDIX 5 Order confirmation, Cortina spring 13

CORTINA N.V.

cortina.be







PRISMA PEREMARKET AS Order number: 40.753

68Q L.GREY/BEIGE 68T PLATINA/PLATINA 92P BLACK/L.GREY/L.GREY

PREPACKS	;
B1010	

B1010	18 p/c	19(1) 20(1) 21(3) 22(4) 23(4) 24(3) 25(2)
B1070	18 p/c	20(1) 21(3) 22(4) 23(4) 24(3) 25(3)
B1164	12 p/c	19(2) 20(2) 21(2) 22(2) 23(2) 24(1) 25(1)
B2040	18 p/c	24(1) 25(1) 26(2) 27(3) 28(3) 29(3) 30(2) 31(2) 32(1)
B2205	12 p/c	24(2) 25(2) 26(2) 27(1) 28(1) 29(1) 30(1) 31(1) 32(1)
B4200	18 p/c	28(2) 29(2) 30(2) 31(2) 32(3) 33(3) 34(2) 35(2)
B4600	15 p/c	28(1) 29(2) 30(2) 31(2) 32(2) 33(2) 34(2) 35(2)
B4710	18 p/c	32(1) 33(2) 34(2) 35(2) 36(3) 37(3) 38(3) 39(2)
B5270	15 p/c	32(1) 33(1) 34(2) 35(2) 36(3) 37(3) 38(2) 39(1)
B5300	15 p/c	32(1) 33(1) 34(1) 35(2) 36(2) 37(3) 38(3) 39(2)
B6500	18 p/c	36(1) 37(3) 38(5) 39(5) 40(3) 41(1)
B6600	12 p/c	36(1) 37(2) 38(3) 39(3) 40(2) 41(1)
B7050	18 p/c	35(1) 36(3) 37(3) 38(4) 39(4) 40(2) 41(1)
B7200	15 p/c	36(1) 37(3) 38(4) 39(4) 40(2) 41(1)
B7300	15 p/c	36(1) 37(2) 38(4) 39(4) 40(3) 41(1)
B7640	15 p/c	37(1) 38(3) 39(4) 40(4) 41(2) 42(1)
B8113	12 p/c	40(1) 41(1) 42(3) 43(3) 44(2) 45(1) 46(1)
B8115	15 p/c	40(1) 41(1) 42(3) 43(4) 44(3) 45(2) 46(1)
B9600	18 p/c	40(1) 41(2) 42(4) 43(5) 44(3) 45(2) 46(1)
P1900	36 p/c	23(2) 24(3) 25(3) 26(3) 27(3) 28(3) 29(3) 30(3) 31(3) 32(3) 33(3) 34(2) 35(2)
P4020	36 p/c	28(4) 29(4) 30(4) 31(4) 32(5) 33(5) 34(5) 35(5)
P7010	24 p/c	35(4) 36(4) 37(4) 38(6) 39(6)
P8020	24 p/c	40(2) 41(3) 42(6) 43(6) 44(4) 45(2) 46(1)

EAN codes

Article	Color	Prepack	Eancode
364671	202	B8115	5499774123704
725000	YEL	B7200	5499774121557
048583	NAV	B7200	5499744672171
097856	68Q	B6600	5499774057542
111020	C5P	B5300	
127670	X7W	B4600	
128253	K1Y	B1070	
128400	007	B5270	5499774139644

APPENDIX 5



Order confirmation, Reima Oy spring 13

Date 21.08.12 282280 Order No. Date of Order 31.05.12

Prisma Peremarket AS Sikupilli 3891110 Punane Street 42 Distribution Centre warehouse 33 13619 TALLINN Estonia Estonia

Purch. Order No. Cust.Order No. Comments Our Reference aj

Delivery Address Prisma Peremarket AS Sikupilli 3891110 Punane Street 42 Distribution Centre warehouse 33 13619 TALLINN

Terms of Delivery EX WORKS

Flash jacket Hot pink sales units/size	721440-4631		delivery date	06.02.13
098 104 110 116 122 128		total	unit price	total
1 2 2 2 2 1		10	PCS	
Flash pants Linen grey sales units/size	722442-0490		delivery date	06.02.13
098 104 110 116 122 128			unit price	total
2 2 2 2 2 2		12	PCS	
Flash jacket Dark blue sales units/size	721441-6981		delivery date	06.02.13
098 104 110 116 122 128		total	unit price	total
1 2 2 2 2 1		10	PCS	
Flash pants Mud grey	722442-1750		delivery date	06.02.13
098 104 110 116 122 128		total	unit price	total
2 2 2 2 2 2			PCS	
Flash pants Dark blue	722442-6980		delivery date	06.02.13
sales units/size 098 104 110 116 122 128		total	unit price	total
2 2 2 2 2 2			PCS	***
Flash baby set Hot pink	713440-4631		delivery date	06.02.13
074 080 086 092		total	unit price	total
1 2 2 3		8	SET	
Flash baby set Yellow lime	713440-8211		delivery date	06.02.13
074 080 086 092		total	unit price	total
1 2 2 3		8	SET	
Knitted cap Hot pink	718441-4630		delivery date	06.02.13
M S XS		total	unit price	total

+358 2075 95801

Reima Oy Phone No. +358 2075 95800 PL 26 Jamintio 14 Business Identity C 2204295-7 38701 KANKAANPÄÄ Registered Home KANKAANPÄÄ

APPENDIX 5

Order confirmation, Hajo spring 13



Labour france an sichen!

hajo strick GmbH 92637 Weiden/Nordbayern Philipp-Karl-Str. 7 Telefon (0961) 60 06-0 Flax: (0961) 60 06-44

Konten:

BLZ 753 200 75 BLZ 753 400 90 BLZ 760 100 85

Betrag / amount

EUR BUR EUR EUR EUR EUR EUR EUR EUR

ILN 40 10892 00000 8 UST-IDNr. DE 811 226862

Auftragsbest	ätigung	Blatt:	1
Kunden-Nr.	Nummer	Da	tum
227091	546427	27.08.	12
Bei Rückfra	gen und Zahlun	a bitte an	oebe

Auftrags-Text

24.08.12

Artikel-Bezeichnung / article

hajostrick GmbH - Posttach 1657 - 92606 Weiden/Nordbayern

DEPARTMENT: 3891801||||

Ihr Auftrag vom

Lieferunge und Zahlungebedingungen eiche Rückseite

Prisma Peremarket AS

Tammsaare tee 118 D 12918 Tallinn **ESTLAND**

frei Haus

Lieferzeit / date of delivery 11.03.-15.03.13 31/HOA/076

Menge / quantity | Einzelpreis / price

Valuta

11.03.13

Kartons kennzeichen!!!

Pas. Artikel-Nr. / article number

Prisma Annelinna, Nolvaku 8, 50708 Tartu

001	43857/KG	/603	Da Sleepshir	t 95 cm	jeansmel	12	
002	43867	/366	Da Sleepshir	t 90 cm	cherry	12	
003	43869	/283	Da Sleepshir	t 95 cm	taupe	12	
004	43809	/000	Da NH 105cm	Klima-Komfort		5-300-5	
			Grőße 36/3	8 704 orchid		2	
			Größe 40/4	2 704 orchid		4	
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Zahlungsbedingung:

10Tage 4%, 30T 2, 25%, 60T.netto

Steuerpfl. Betrag / taxable amount MWST / VAT % MWST / VAT Rechnungsbetrag / total amount Netto-Warenwert / net value Versandkosten/shipping charges



231629

Prisma Peremarket AS Distribution Centre Punane Street 42

EST 12918 Tallinn

Kom.-Dat

Versand-End-Kontrolle-Dat.

Zoh.

Versandart

Registergericht Welden/Nordbayern HRB 683 Geschäftsführender Gesellschafter: Hans-Jochen Müller Geschäftsführer Wolfgang Müller Gerhand Schwarzer

MAX COLLECTION

CONFIRMATION

Order confirmation, Max collection spring 13

Datum/Date 121025

Kundnr/Cust No 2039

Leveransadress/Address

Prisma Lasnamäe Dep 3891510 Distribution Centre Punane Street 42, Warehouse 33 13619 TALLIN ESTONIA

Adressat/Addressee

Ordernr/Order No

1690-F

70834

Prisma Peremarket AS

A. H. Tammsaare tee 118 D 129 18 TALLIN ESTONIA

Leveransvillkor/Terms of Del DDP/ FRITT ERT LAGER Vår referens/Our ref

Leveranssätt/Delivery

DHL

Er referens/Your Ref

Betainingsvillkor/Terms of Payment 40 DGR NETTO/ESTLAND

Rad Row	Art nr Art No	Specifikation Specification	Lev tid Delivery	Antal Qty	A-pris Unit Price	Belopp Amount
1	63-0360AL1-27	PANTS ISA DENIMBLUE/	130304	15		
2	63-0361AL1-27	PANTS LINA DENIMBLUE	130304	15		
3	63-0360AL1-32	PANTS ISA PINK/CERIS	130304	15		
4	63-0361AL1-32	EAN: 7322414151851 PANTS LINA PINK/CERI	130304	15		
5	63-0361AL3-27	EAN: 7322414151912 PANTS LINA DENIMBLUE	130408	10		
6	63-0360AL3-27	EAN: 7322414152056 PANTS ISA DENIMBLUE/	130408	10		
7	63-0360AL3-32	EAN: 7322414152025 PANTS ISA PINK/CERIS	130408	10		
8	63-0361AL3-32	EAN: 7322414152032 PANTS LINA PINK/CERI	130408	10		
-		EAN: 7322414152063				
9	63-0362AL1-32	SKIRT PINK/CERISE/WH EAN: 7322414151974	130304	15		
10	63-0362AL1-27	SKIRT DENIMBLUE/PINK	130304	15		
11	63-0362AL2-32	SKIRT PINK/CERISE/WH	130408	9		
12	63-0362AL2-27	EAN: 7322414152001 SKIRT DENIMBLUE/PINK	130408	9		
		EAN: 7322414151998				
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Postadress/Address Telefon/Phone Telefax/Fax Max Collection AB to the first through the territory of th Björkhemsgatan 38 SE556306581101 Anv. BG 814-2101 506 46 Borås Sweden

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APPENDIX 6

Order confirmation in an excel sheet