Advanced Logistic Systems – Theory and Practice, Vol. 16, No. 1 (2022), pp. 5-18. https://doi.org/10.32971/als.2022.001

## LOGISTICS 4.0: GOALS, TRENDS AND SOLUTIONS

## ELKE GLISTAU<sup>1</sup>-NORGE ISAIAS COELLO MACHADO<sup>2</sup>-SEBASTIAN TROJAHN<sup>3</sup>

**Abstract:** Logistics 4.0 generates a high number of new solutions. The scientific task is to generate an overview knowledge in this field and to show opportunities for the targeted further development. Research questions are: (1) What are typical goals and potentials of Logistics 4.0? (2) What current trends in ICT, production and logistics are influencing Logistics 4.0 solutions? (3) What are typical solutions of logistics 4.0? (4) In which areas do new research questions arise? The research is based on an analysis of new scientific publications and of own scientific projects according Logistics 4.0. Furthermore, the basis are also many years of scientific work and practical experiences in the area of logistics. The approach is based on the evaluation of the impact of trends on logistics solutions.

Keywords: Logistics 4.0, Logistics service, Smart Logistics Zone, Trends, Research questions

#### **1. MOTIVATION AND INTRODUCTION**

Logistics 4.0 designates the transfer of Industry 4.0 in the logistics field. This includes the fusion of logistics with digitization, networking and automation. Logistics service is realized by five types of logistics service providers, from 1PL to 5PL. (cf. [1], [2], [3]). Material flow processes and energy flow processes are mainly carried out by 1PL, 2PL and 3PL. Information flow processes are typical for all five logistics service provider types. Financial flow processes are realized as material flow processes or/and mostly as information flow processes. Energy flow processes are especially important for decentralized logistics solutions. Logistics includes integrating and safeguarding processes in the manufacturing company. Relevant literature differs Logistics 4.0 into Supply Chain Management, Information logistics, Distribution logistics and sale, Reverse and Disposal logistics, Traffic logistics, Warehouse logistics and buffers, Transport logistics, spare parts logistics and service, Intra logistics, Inbound logistics, Outbound logistics, and a lot of others logistics disciplines [4] (cf. [5], [6]). The various definitions show the challenge in creating an overview in Logistics 4.0 at whole.

Logistics 4.0 is more than digitizing traditional logistics. "However, the fourth industrial revolution is not only transforming processes in production and value creation, but also the world of work, organizational forms and structures in companies, and the competence and qualification requirements for employees." [7].

- This paper aims to answer the research questions:
  - 1. What are typical goals and potentials of Logistics 4.0?
  - 2. What current trends in IT, production and logistics are influencing Logistics 4.0 solutions?

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Prof. h. c. Dr.-Ing. Dr. h. c. (UCLV), ILM, Otto von Guericke University, Magdeburg, Germany elke.glistau@ovgu.de

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Prof. Dr.-Ing. Dr. h.c. Prof. h.c., Universidad Central "Marta Abreu" de Las Villas, Santa Clara, Cuba norgec@uclv.edu.cu

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Prof.-Dr.-Ing., Anhalt University of Applied Sciences, Bernburg, Germany sebastian.trojahn@ovgu.de

- 3. What are typical solutions of logistics 4.0?
- 4. In which areas do new research questions arise?

It is important to emphasize that digitization and networking are only two criteria, albeit essential ones, for designing logistics processes and systems. Other important criteria are e. g: sustainability, resilience and safety.

#### 2. METHODOLOGY

The research work is based on an evaluation of current scientific literature. A further source are own scientific projects and student projects in Logistics 4.0. The third component is the long year experience of the authors in the field of logistics.

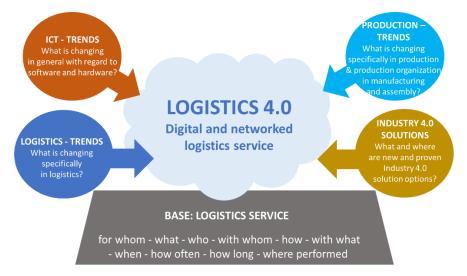


Figure 1. Logistics 4.0 is influenced by various trends (own editing)

The research work is approached from four sides (Figure 1.):

- 1. From the side of ICT Trends: What is changing in general with regard to software and hardware?
- 2. From the side of Logistics trends: What is changing specifically in logistics?
- 3. From the side of Production trends: What is changing specifically in production & production organization in manufacturing and assembly?
- 4. From the side of Industry 4.0 solutions: What and where are new and proven Industry 4.0 solution options? This characterizes the opportunities for new Logistics 4.0 applications.

These trends are described in terms of their impact on the logistics solution, which can be defined by the W/H question words. All four views are ultimately linked to holistically characterize the changes in Logistics 4.0 and to create an overview.

## **3. RESEARCH RESULTS**

#### 3.1. Result 1: Goals and potentials of Logistics 4.0

Typical goals for the implementation of Logistics 4.0 solutions are effectiveness, efficiency, time, costs, quality, flexibility, performance, safety, sustainability, communication/interaction, transparency, resilience, adaptivity and scalability. (cf. [8]) The following list is an open collection of examples of the goals with regard to Logistics 4.0 (cf. [9], [10], [11]):

- Reduction of costs through optimization of logistics processes (transport, picking, handling, storage, maintenance etc.) and service processes,
- Improvement of the resilience of the Supply Chain network,
- Increasing speed, flexibility, security and controllability of processes,
- Improvement of quality and transparency of data flow along supply chains,
- Reliable localization and tracking of logistics objects,
- Reduction of process times (loading),
- Continuous quality control of logistic objects,
- Reduction of errors (condition detection and continuous media and systems),
- Reduction of necessary personnel and extension of operating hours,
- Increased performance/productivity through adapted work tools,
- Increased communication and interaction with customers and suppliers (e.g. customer needs, sales forecasts, transparency in order fulfilment),
- Greater sustainability through e.g. optimization of resource use and implementation of climate protection measures,
- Minimizing energy consumption for logistics services and intelligent energy management.

In addition to the classic automation (replacement of manual activity by mechanized or automated activity) of Logistics 2.0 and 3.0, Logistics 4.0 solutions thus make a noticeable qualitative contribution by means of digitization and networking, e.g. in the areas of:

- Automated and continuous material flow,
- Automated and end-to-end flow of information,
- Automated and end-to-end financial flow,
- Automated and networked infrastructure,
- Reduction and optimization of energy flow required for logistics management,
- New business models and logistics services,
- Logistics by 5PL to handle global and complex Supply Chain networks,
- Automated and networked warehouse technology,
- Automated and networked commissioning processes and systems,
- Seamless identification and necessary status recording of logistical objects,
- Seamless digital documentation,
- Ergonomic and preventive employee support,
- Smart data analysis for planning, control and optimization,
- Digitized and networked processes,
- Process integration for all types of processes.

It is typical that Logistics 4.0 solutions in manufacturing companies consist of many individual solutions, which themselves are also constantly improved and reconfigured, but which ultimately only develop their full efficiency through their interaction.

# **3.2. Result 2: ICT Trends and what is changing in general with regard to software and hardware**

Table I lists important ICT trends and characterizes their impact on logistics services.

				Logis	stics se	rvice				
Important ICT Trend	For whom	What	мho	Ноњ	With what	When	How often	How long	Where	Characterization of influence on Logistics 4.0
Digital market increases										As a business model, it pushes digitization across the board and customer channel.
Explore customers deep										Accurate analysis of customers requires the collection and preparation of data.
Homeoffice and Remote working places										Strong proliferation of home-based work and work that can be done from anywhere.
Demand for digital know- how										Require professional qualification and lifelong learning.
Cloud- platforms and cloud software										New offered services are infrastructure (IaaS), platforms (PaaS) and software (SaaS). Memory capacity, processing power and applications are provided by internet and do not installed local.
Edge Computing										Data processing is brought close to where it is needed.
Digital Twins										The virtual representation of a physical object or system is used to understand it, optimize it, predict it, control it, or repair it.

 Table I.

 Influence of ICT trends according logistics service (compare only for trends [12, 13, 14, 15, 16])

Г

## Continuation Table I.

				Logis	stics se	ervice				
Important ICT Trend	For whom	What	oyM	How	With what	When	How often	How long	Where	Characterization of influence on Logistics 4.0
Increased data protection										Requires critical protection of sensitive data from corruption, compromise, or loss.
3D Printing										Changes the supply chains fundamentally. The product is first created at or near the customer.
Artificial Intelligence										Three group of methods are developed: Artificial neural networks, Fuzzy Logic and Evolutionary algorithm. It is possible to optimize f. e. logistical processes and systems (prescriptive analytics), quality control, prediction of failures and disturbances (predictive maintenance).
Benign AI- powered bots										Integration of bots into existing programs for e.g. evaluation of data, learning in decision-making situations and visualization of options for action and -effects.
Pattern matching Big Data Analytics										Increasing data volume requires efficient methods of processing. It is necessary to evaluate situations and do forecast.
Augmented & Virtual Reality										AR supported workstations e.g. picking with pick by vision.
Blockchain										The accounting of logistics activities can be realized automatically by using Blockchain technology (e. g. smart contracts).

	Logi	istics se	rvice							
Important ICT Trend	For whom	What	oyM	Ноw	With what	When	How often	How long	Where	Characterization of influence on Logistics 4.0
Networking, Internet of Things										Internet of things (IoT) connects physical and virtual devices by using information and communication technologies. The task is now to develop the Internet of services (IoS).
Next- Generation Wireless										Concerns infrastructure, use of 5G networks with higher data rates, real- time transmission and short latency times.
Cloud & APIs										New offered services include infrastructure (IaaS), platforms (PaaS) and software (SaaS). Memory capacity, processing power and applications were provided by internet and do not installed local.
Sum	3	3	4	14	14	4	2	5	1	

Continuation Table I.

It can be seen from (Table I.) that, in addition to new digital business models in logistics that affect the use of new technologies in logistics, ICT trends are primarily changing the way logisticians work (How) and the tools (With what) they use.

Only little influence exists on:

- The customers (For whom), only via Digital market and customer investigation,
- The actual logistics service itself (What),
- The person of the logistics service provider (Who, With whom), except for the required qualification.
- The time of the logistics service (When), shortened by software if necessary,
- The frequency of the logistics service (How often),
- The duration of the logistics service (How long) and
- The place where the logistics service is provided (Where).

The ICT trends can therefore be used for logistics like a checklist to verify whether an improvement is achievable for an existing task through AI, blockchain or via AR.

## 3.3. Result 3: Logistics trends and what is changing specifically in logistics

Table II lists important logistics trends and characterizes their impact on logistics services and on Logistics 4.0.

				Logis	stics se	ervice								
Important Logistics Trend	For whom	What	Who	How	With what	When	How often	How long	Where	Characterization of influence on Logistics 4.0				
Supergrid Logistics										5 PL manage global networks.				
Logistics Marketplaces										Allow transparent, flexible and easily configurable logistics services.				
Sharing Economy										Changing business models; sharing of logistics resources.				
Servitization										Change in business models to a combined offering of product and service.				
Silver Economy										New logistics services by satisfying the health and life needs of the elderly.				
Space Logistics										Specialized area, impact only on a few logistics companies.				
Dual sourcing Multi sourcing										Networks and chains with multiple suppliers.				
Omnichannel Logistics										Integrated view of all customer channels.				
Mass Personalization										Linking individualization with mass production for all customer channels.				
Fresh Chain										Special logistics for refrigerated and perishable goods.				
Smart Containerization										Intelligent containers change cargo shipping up to the last mile.				

 Table II.

 Influence of Logistic trends according logistics service (compare only for trends [12, 15, 16, 17])

Continuation Table II.

				Logis	stics se	ervice				
Important Logistics Trend	For whom	What	Who	Ноњ	With what	When	How often	How long	Where	Characterization of influence on Logistics 4.0
Rethinking Packaging										Rethinking packaging forms.
Sustainable Logistics										Innovations and evaluation of the entire logistics service, combines economy, ecology and social issues.
Next-Generations Security										Potential hazards are predicted and eliminated.
Resilience in SCM										Risk management of rare, serious events.
Future of Work										New demands on working life.
Smart infrastructure										Mobility infrastructure e.g. charging infrastructure for e- mobility and cargo bikes; 5G projects e.g. communication for mobility and communication for factories.
New professions in logistics										E.g. data specialist, drone pilot, robot coordinator, digital transport manager, global supply chain manager.
Decentral organization and self-organization										Allows multiple interactions in the logistical zone, have often a strong dynamical non- linearity.
Sum	10	14	13	15	14	11	11	11	11	

Logistics trends influence all aspects of logistics performance. This ranges from new business models, new logistics objects, logistics processes and systems, and logistics infrastructure.

## 3.4. Result 4: Productions trends and what is changing specifically in logistics

Table III lists important production trends and characterizes their impact on logistics services and on Logistics 4.0.

Table III.

				Logis	tics se	ervice				
Important Production Trend	For whom	What	oyM	моН	With what	uəyM	uətfo моH	guol woH	ə.əųM	Characterization of influence on Logistics 4.0
Individualization of customer wishes and -requirements										Leads to "lot size 1" and possibly to dynamic lot sizing, increasing variety of variants.
Globalization										Global supply networks and globally distributed markets, global production sites.
Regionalization Production relocation										Disruptive events in SC lead to rethinking in procurement and SCM, production is shifted to the market, new partners and forms of collaboration.
Production disruption										Traditional business models, products, services and technologies are modified or displaced.
Demographic change and securing skilled workers										Affects the conception and design of workplaces (performance change).
Migration										Conception and design of workplaces (performance change).

Influence of Production trends according logistics service (compare only for trends [12, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20])

Continuation Table III.

				Logis	tics se	ervice				
Important Production Trend	For whom	What	Who	Ноw	With what	When	How often	How long	Where	Characterization of influence on Logistics 4.0
Sustainability, Environmentally friendly production and resource efficiency										Influences in particular the material and energy flows.
New technologies and materials (e.g. lightweight construction, 3-D printing, biological transformation)										Changes logistics supply chains.
Shortened innovation and technology life cycles										Planning periods are shortened, modularity instead of complete solutions, can be exchanged and supplemented more easily.
Industry 4.0										e.g. Internet of Things and CPS, cf. (Table IV.).
Self-Driving Vehicles Unmanned Aerial Vehicles										Objectives are to improve the energy efficiency and to increase the capacity of the transport mode and space. They support e.g. transportation and delivery processes, handling of tools and parts, assembly, quality control and maintenance.
Robotics & Automation										Increasing automation, human-technology combinations.

14

Continuation Table III.

				Logis	stics se	ervice				
Important Production Trend	For whom	What	Who	How	With what	When	How often	How long	Where	Characterization of influence on Logistics 4.0
Bionic Enhancement										Changes the conception and design of workplaces.
Higher reliability and safety requirements (product/counterfeit protection)										This influences the logistics solutions in terms of condition detection and transparency.
Integration of production and service processes										Hybrid products change the logistics service portfolio.
Higher demands on creativity, competence, knowledge and innovative ability of planners and controllers; broad engineering qualification										Requires special education and training, permanent learning.
Integration of production area and office										Changes the conception and design of workplaces.
Sum	1	9	7	7	7	1	3	1	5	

Logistics services are strongly influenced by production trends. This affects all aspects of logistics services, but specifically what, who, how and with what is executed. Production trends are reflected in logistics and in Logistics 4.0.

#### 3.5. Result 5: Solutions of Industry 4.0 and what is changing specifically in logistics

Table IV lists important solutions of Industry 4.0 and characterizes their impact on logistics services. There are various approaches for a systematization. In [21], for example, the transformation in enterprise logistics and SCM is subdivided into technology, people, organization and information, which could also be used to classify the solutions if necessary. In Table IV, the aspect-based view of the Smart Logistics Zone is used for classification. (cf. [8, 22] This is divided into business models, objects, processes, systems and infrastructure.

## Table IV.

Important solutions of Industry 4.0 according logistics service (compare only for typical solutions [16, 17, 21, 22, 23, 24])

				Logist	tics sei	rvice				
Important solutions of Industry 4.0	For whom	What	очм	How	With what	тэнW	How often	How long	Where	Characterization of influence on Logistics 4.0
Digital Business models										New business models expand the portfolio of large logistics service providers and also lead to start-up.
Smart objects										Use of e.g. smart material, smart part, smart product, smart packaging, smart loading unit, smart pallet, smart box and, smart container.
New software- integrated processes										Facilitate and automate the logistical processes of goods movement and all business processes e.g. purchase processing and payment.
CPS and HTO system										Driverless, autonomously operated logistics operators, Cyber-physical material handling modules, New work aids (assistance robots, data glasses and gloves, intelligent clothing and intelligent contact lenses).
Smart infrastructure										Environments that promote and facilitate primary logistics operations
Sum	1	3	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	

The Smart Logistics Zone model enables a systematization of Industry 4.0 / Logistics 4.0 solutions and spans a solution space. At the same time, it enables the derivation of a large number of research questions. Examples include:

1. What new business models arise with digitization and networking?

- 2. How can the digital business models themselves be suitably designed through digitization and networking?
- 3. How intelligent do logistics objects need to be and how can intelligence be generated technically?
- 4. Where are intelligent and where are "dumb" objects advisable?
- 5. How can logistics processes be improved through innovation and digitization/networking?
- 6. Which CPS and MTO systems can be used for technical implementation? (Best practices)
- 7. Where is further need for action in the development of CPS and MTO systems?
- 8. Which scenarios are conceivable in order to be able to install a nationwide/worldwide smart infrastructure?
- 9. How should the charging infrastructure in cities/regions/nationally be planned for individual means of transport (e.g. for e-mobility)?
- 10. What intelligence should be transferred to the infrastructure for autonomous driving?

For further research questions on intelligent infrastructure (cf. [17]).

#### 3. SUMMARY

The industrial revolution, referred to as Industry 4.0, has a major impact on logistics solutions. In order to span the field of Logistics 4.0 holistically, the research work was drawn up from four sides: From the side of ICT trends, from the side of Logistics trends, from the side of Production trends, and from the side of Industry 4.0 solutions. These trends and solutions are described in terms of their impact on the logistics service fulfilment and specifically on Logistics 4.0. The impacts were briefly explained in tabular form for this purpose. The tables represent open collective lists that can be constantly modified and supplemented. As a result, summary notes are provided. For example, the ICT trends can be used purely as a checklist to identify potential through digitization and networking. Research questions are posed.

#### REFERENCES

- Hosie, P., Sundarakani, B. & Tan, A. (2012). Determinants of fifth party logistics (5PL). Service providers for supply chain management. *Internationale Journal of Logistics Systems and Management* 13(3), 287-316. https://doi.org/10.1504/IJLSM.2012.049700
- Gruchmann, T., Melkonyan, A. & Krumme, K. (2018). Logistics Business Transformation for Sustainability: Assessing the Role of the Lead Sustainability Service Provider (6PL). *Logistics*. 2(25), <u>https://doi.org/10.3390/logistics2040025</u>
- Hausladen, I. (2020). IT-gestützte Logistik: Systeme, Prozesse, Anwendungen. Springer Gabler. Leipzig. <u>https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-658-31260-2</u>
- [4] Glistau, E., Coello Machado, N. & Trojahn, S. (2021). Logistics 4.0 in the manufacturing company - goals, processes and solutions. In: *III Convención Científica Internacional de Ciencia, Tecnología y Sociedad UCLV 2021*[online] - [Santa Clara, Cuba]: Editorial Feijóo. 21
- [5] Illés, B., Glistau, E. & Coello Machado, N. I. (2012). *Logística y Gestión de la Calidad*. Universidad de Miskolc, Miskolc

- [6] Schedlbauer, M. J. (2008). Adaptive Logistikplanung auf Basis eines standardisierten, prozessorientierten Bausteinkonzepts. TU München. Lehrstuhl für Fördertechnik Materialfluss Logistik. Dissertation. München
- [7] Acatech (2016). Kompetenzentwicklungsstudie Industrie 4.0. acatech. Deutsche Akademie der Technikwissenschaften. München
- [8] Behrendt, F., Schmidtke, N., Glistau, E. & Wagner, M. (2019). Der Intelligente Logistikraum neue Gestaltungsformen im Kontext der digitalen Transformation. In: *Industrie 4.0 Management* - Berlin: GITO mbH Publ., 35(4), 35-38, <u>https://doi.org/10.30844/I40M 19-4 S35-38</u>
- [9] Muchna, C., Brandenburg, H., Fottner, J. & Gutermuth, J. (2018). Grundlagen der Logistik -Begriffe, Strukturen und Prozesse. Wiesbaden, <u>https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-658-18593-0</u>
- [10] Bräkling, E., Lux, J.& Oidtmann, K. (2020). Logistikmanagement: Mit Logistik-Power schnell, schlank und fehlerfrei liefern. Springer Gabler, Wiesbaden, <u>https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-658-32583-1</u>
- [11] Lasch, R. (2021) Strategisches und operatives Logistikmanagement. Springer. Dresden. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-658-35257-8
- [12] DHL (2020). The Logistics Trend Radar. 5th Edition. Retrieved from https://www.dhl.com/global-en/home/insights-and-innovation/insights/logistics-trendradar.html (accessed on 22 February 2022)
- [13] Berlit, M. & Scherf, J. (2018). Intralogistik 4.0. Die Top 4 Digitalisierungstrends in der Intralogistik für 2018. MM Logistik. Vogel. 10.04.18
- [14] Kruse R., Borgelt C., Braune C., Mostaghim S. & Steinbrecher M. (2016). Computational Intelligence. A Methodological Introduction. Springer-Verlag London, https://doi.org/10.1007/978-1-4471-7296-3
- [15] Wehberg G.G. (2019). Logistik 4.0 die sechs Säulen der Logistik in der Zukunft. In: Göpfert

   I. (eds) Logistik der Zukunft Logistics for the Future. Springer Gabler, Wiesbaden,

   https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-658-23805-6\_15
- [16] Glistau, E. & Coello Machado, N. I. (2019). Logistics 4.0 solutions and trends. In: COMEC 2019, 13 pp.; [Conference: COMEC2019, June, 23th-30th, 2019, Cayos de Villa Clara, Cuba, <u>https://doi.org/10.32971/als.2019.011</u>
- [17] Glistau, E., Trojahn, S. & Bányainé Tóth, Á. (2021). Logistics 4.0: Smart Infrastructure. Multidiszciplináris tudományok, 11(5), 215-224. <u>https://doi.org/10.35925/j.multi.2021.5.22</u>
- [18] Ciupek, M. (2022). Produktion im Wandel. VDI Nachrichten. 25 March 2022. Retrieved from https://www.vdi-nachrichten.com/technik/produktion/diese-sechs-megatrends-entscheidenueber-die-wettbewerbsfachigkeit-der-industrie/ (accessed on 17 May 2022)
- [19] Fraunhofer IPT. Entwicklungen für die Produktion von morgen. Retrieved from https://www.ipt.fraunhofer.de/de/trendthemen.html (accessed on 17 May 2022
- [20] KUKA: Megatrends beeinflussen die Produktion der Zukunft. Retrieved from https://www.kuka.com/de-de/future-production/sfpl/megatrends (accessed on 17 May 2022)
- [21] Henke, M., Besenfelder, C. & Kaczmarek, S. (2020). Dortmunder Management Modell. In Handbuch Industrie 4.0. Springer. Heidelberg. <u>https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-662-58530-6</u>
- [22] Schmidtke, N., Glistau, E., Behrendt, F. (2019). Magdeburg Logistics Model The Smart Logistics Zone as a Concept for Enabling Logistics 4.0 Technologies. X International Conference on Mechanical Engineering. "COMEC 2019". Villa Clara. Cuba, https://doi.org/10.32971/als.2019.007
- [23] Wannenwetsch, H. (2021). Industrie 4.0, Produktion 4.0 und Einkauf 4.0. In: Integrierte Materialwirtschaft, Logistik, Beschaffung und Produktion. Springer Vieweg. Berlin, Heidelberg, <u>https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-662-61095-4\_18</u>
- [24] Franke, A. (2021). Service Logistik 4.0. In: Integrierte Materialwirtschaft, Logistik, Beschaffung und Produktion. Springer Vieweg. Berlin, Heidelberg. <u>https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-662-61095-4</u>