

Success Story | SAP ILM Implementation

SAP S/4HANA system and GDPR in perfect harmony

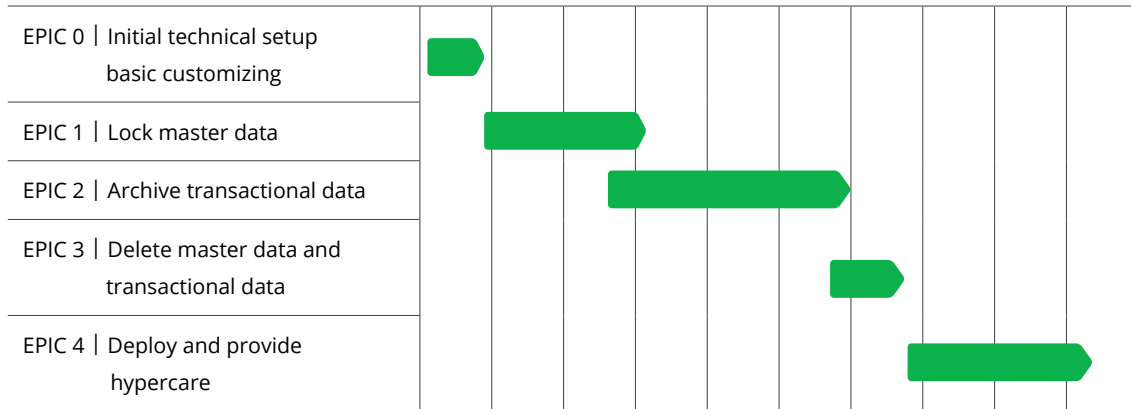
Wacker Chemie implements SAP ILM with the expertise provided by Nativion

As a global chemical company, Wacker Chemie AG considers compliance with regulatory and legal requirements as a top priority. This includes data protection and adherence to GDPR. To ensure its SAP S/4HANA system is no exception, Wacker decided to implement SAP Information Lifecycle Management (ILM) with the support of Nativion data management experts.

Since 2018, all companies that process personal data of EU citizens must comply with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). GDPR mandates companies to delete specific personal data from IT systems as soon as the intended purpose no longer exists for which the data initially had been collected. With an SAP S/4HANA system that neither limited person-related data nor deleted such data when required, Wacker had to act. The chemical company decided to address GDPR regulations by implementing SAP Information Lifecycle Management (ILM). The SAP ILM framework can be used to develop sustainable blocking and deletion routines to mitigate risk involved with data protection. However, implementing SAP ILM is known for being a complex undertaking with no standard approach and no comprehensive guide available — reasons for Wacker to invite Nativion experts in data management and SAP ILM to its Bavarian quarters.

Nativion EPIC approach: the approach that works

With a remarkable track record in delivering SAP ILM implementation projects, Nativion was best positioned to develop a standard approach to successfully introduce SAP ILM. The process divides complex implementation tasks into smaller activities grouped in independent phases, so-called EPICs. Each EPIC can be executed and go into production individually, turning the overall program into a more manageable project, minimizing risk at the same time. To the team at Wacker, a very compelling concept to get started.



The Nativion EPIC approach is an agile methodology with one goal in mind, the implementation of SAP ILM

Agile in phases: becoming GDPR compliant step by step

To begin with, phase EPIC 0 establishes the basis to provide the team a working environment. SAP ILM is being activated, system access and authorization granted, and transport mechanism set up. Next, EPIC 1 is concerned with the rules for the locking of master data. The periods when person-related data must be locked in the future in the production system are determined. When this time window ends, access to that data is blocked. Meeting this major GDPR requirement already brings the company one big step closer to compliance.

The set of rules for master data locking is the basis for the subsequent SAP ILM configuration. Before progressing to the first project go-live, accuracy had to be ensured. Together with Wacker business representatives, Nativion performed the SAP ILM functional validation as well as the rule verification from the business side.

In preparation for EPIC 2 and 3, the SAP S/4HANA system had to be analyzed to identify all person-related data. DCS Analyze proved to be the tool perfectly suited to accelerate this task. With the scope having been determined, the ILM objects were created to technically delete data in the system.

At this point, Nativion started training those responsible at Wacker, transferring knowledge about ILM objects and related topics. Continuous collaboration between Nativion and Wacker during the course of the project strengthened the confidence on Wacker's side to take on more tasks, act independently, and gain more SAP ILM experience.

After developer and system tests, deleting and debugging sessions were successfully completed, go-live excitement finally took over. With the actual data blocking, archiving, and deletion of person-related master and transactional data in the SAP S/4HANA system, the project crossed the finish line.



Better together: compliance mission accomplished

The successful implementation of SAP ILM enables the chemical company to block, archive, and delete data in its SAP S/4HANA system in accordance with GDPR. SAP ILM performs these activities rule-based and automatically in the background, making complex, high effort-causing selections of archivable data or deletion in archives obsolete. Continuous archiving also reduces storage which positively impacts cost and performance of the database in an SAP S/4HANA environment.

In most projects specific requirements are raised by the business triggering the discussion for potential customization effort. In the case of Wacker, Nativion guided the business in realizing the benefits of adopting SAP ILM standard processes in nearly all scenarios. Staying close to the standard not only minimizes project effort and cost, but also results in a more sustainable solution. Furthermore, during the implementation Nativion determines for each object if business processes have been completed. That was not always the case at Wacker and the team was able to resolve the situation in the system.

Robert Barth, Project Lead at Wacker and very satisfied with the project outcome, explicitly praises the collaboration: “Nativion was the best partner we could choose for our SAP ILM implementation. From the get-go the EPIC approach provided the needed structure to move forward. The knowledge that we acquired from the Nativion experts not only allowed us to take on more work during later stages in the project, but also provided us with peace of mind when operations started. If I have some advice for organizations considering SAP ILM, I strongly recommend upskilling your team in SAP ILM. It contributes to project success and is an investment in the future.”

What’s next: Nativion continues to support Wacker in regular SAP ILM operations, when necessary, particularly in the context of archiving.

Hard Facts	
Company Wacker Chemie AG	Revenue EUR 6.4B (2023)
Headquarter Munich, Germany	Employees approx. 16,400 (2023)
Industry Chemicals	Website www.wacker.com
Products & Services Polysilicon, silicones, polymers, biosolutions	Nativion Services SAP ILM implementation

About Wacker Chemie



WACKER is a German chemical company with global operations. Its state-of-the-art specialty chemical products are found in countless everyday items. Applications range from tile adhesives to solar cells. The company operates 27 production sites, 22 competence centers, and 48 sales offices around the world. In 2023 around 16,400 employees generated EUR 6.4B in revenue. WACKER comprises four

operational business divisions with each business responsible for designated products, production plants, markets, and customers. WACKER SILICONES and WACKER POLYMERS serve the automotive, construction, customer products, and medical devices industry with silicones and polymer powders. WACKER BIOSOLUTIONS addresses the life science area with customized biotech products such as biopharmaceuticals and food additives. WACKER POLYSILICON supplies hyper pure polysilicon to the solar and semiconductor industries.

About Nativion



Nativion is a digital moving company. It does not transport tables, filing cabinets or chairs. Nativion moves business-critical data and processes from one technological platform to another both smoothly and cost-efficiently. This enables Nativion customers to always use data and processes on the most modern and innovative platforms. Typical Nativion “relocation services” include

data migration, data transformation, data quality, data integration, data privacy, data security and data governance. Nativion’s experts are supported in the transformation of data by Nativion DCS, a powerful software solution developed in-house. Nativion is a founding member of the SAP S/4HANA Selective Data Transition Engagement Community and has been part of NTT DATA Business Solutions AG, a leading global SAP consultancy, since 2022. Featuring in the Inc. 5000 and FT 1000 lists, the Nativion Group is one of the fastest growing software and IT consulting companies in Europe.

Do you want to implement ILM in your SAP system? Contact us!

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