

From Raw Coffee to the Field

How DEK Brings Transparency to Complex Supply Chains



Company:



Deutsche Extrakt Kaffee GmbH,
part of the CAFE A Group



Coffee industry /
Food production

osapiens Solution:

osapiens HUB for EUDR

Results:



Clear structures instead
of parallel processes



A shared framework for
supplier integration, data
collection, and traceability



Less uncertainty, a better
foundation for what's still to come

Learn more about the collaboration
between DEK and osapiens.





The EUDR cuts deep into existing processes, and you really only notice that once you start implementing it.



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About DEK

Deutsche Extrakt Kaffee GmbH (DEK) is part of the Cafea Group, which operates eight production sites. The Group imports raw coffee and processes it primarily into instant coffee; it also produces, among other things, roasted coffee (including grain- and chicory-based varieties), liquid coffee and liquid coffee extracts, cappuccino products, drinking chocolate, baby food, coffee whitener, and coffee substitute products.

A closer look at the coffee supply chain quickly reveals how far from straightforward it is. Many small producers, different countries, shifting trade and customer structures. This is precisely the environment DEK operates in. Its supply chains are globally structured and often trace back to smallholder farms. Sustainability and transparency are therefore part of day-to-day business.

With the EUDR, the pressure on precisely these supply chains has increased significantly. Topics such as geolocation and traceability are suddenly no longer optional, but a requirement.



Direct exchange with our onboarding manager ensures that open questions are resolved quickly and the next steps are clear.



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The Moment It Became Clear: Waiting Is Not Enough

DEK has closely followed the regulatory developments surrounding the EUDR from the very beginning. By 2023 at the latest, it became clear where things were heading. The requirements became more concrete, and at the same time, pressure from the market increased. Customers asked more targeted questions, and the industry as a whole became more attentive.

For DEK, it was clear early on that this was not an issue that could be resolved quickly. The data is not simply available. Processes had to be rethought, and suppliers had to be more actively involved. On top of that, many questions on the regulatory side remained open for a long time: unclear interpretations, gaps in the regulation, and missing technical systems such as TRACES in a practicable form. At the same time, there was a supply chain in which relevant data was often not available in the required quality.

What the collaboration with DEK showed: those who start structuring early have more room to maneuver later.

Between Ambition and Reality: The Real Challenges

The biggest challenge lay less in individual requirements than in how they interacted. Internally, this meant building new data foundations, clarifying responsibilities, and connecting departments more closely.

On top of this came a particularity that sets the coffee industry apart from other affected sectors: instant coffee was initially excluded from the original scope of the EUDR. This regulatory gap created uncertainty along the entire value chain, with open questions of interpretation and an EU IT system that was not yet fully operational at the outset.

What DEK's experience has clearly shown: the EUDR is not merely a compliance task. It requires a fundamental transformation of the data and process landscape.

Why the osapiens HUB for EUDR

Given these EUDR challenges, DEK's goal was to find a solution that matched the reality of its supply chain. DEK reviewed the market, evaluated other providers, and decided on the osapiens HUB.

Holistic approach: a solution that maps the entire supply chain while relying on automation. For a company with the complexity and fragmentation of a coffee supply chain, this is a basic requirement, not a nice-to-have.

Integration capability: DEK works with SAP. The ability to integrate the osapiens HUB into the existing ERP landscape was therefore a concrete decision criterion.

Timing: The original EUDR deadlines increased the pressure, even though the timeline was later postponed. For DEK, it was clear early on: a structured start is more important than the perfect solution on paper. osapiens' approach helped shape this start so that it would hold up.

Rollout, Step by Step

DEK is currently in the implementation phase of the osapiens HUB. The most pragmatic approach was also the most effective: starting implementation early, getting to know the platform during the ongoing implementation process, and gradually aligning its own workflows with it. The exchange with the osapiens team is direct and close to day-to-day business.

Especially on topics related to SAP integration, it becomes clear how important a solution-oriented approach is.



The First Effects of the osapiens HUB Are Becoming Visible

Even though not everything is finished yet, the first changes are already emerging:

- ▶ Processes are becoming more tangible: topics such as supplier integration, data collection, and traceability are brought together in a shared framework. This creates clarity.
- ▶ Less uncertainty and a stronger foundation for the next steps.



With the osapiens HUB, we can bring together information along our supply chain, from raw coffee sourcing all the way to the due diligence statement, in a single continuous digital framework for the first time.

What used to be spread across multiple systems and manual processes can now be mapped centrally and in a more structured way. That not only saves time, it also creates the data foundation on which we can provide reliable proof of compliance.



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The inclusion of instant coffee in the EUDR is an important step toward a consistent approach along the entire coffee value chain.



CAFEA GRUPPE

Well Prepared for When the Framework Changes

The EUDR has changed repeatedly. Timelines were adjusted, the scope expanded. For DEK, this was no reason to panic.

What other companies had to catch up on under time pressure was already a given at DEK. This provided room to approach the next steps in a structured way rather than reactively.

DEK had, from the very beginning, thought beyond the scope in place at the time. The fact that instant coffee was later added to Annex I of the EUDR was not a moment of surprise for the company, but a logical next step. The Cafa Group, together with the German and European Coffee Associations, had actively advocated for closing this regulatory gap. Because for DEK, the logic was clear: anyone who takes sustainability seriously cannot leave out this processing stage of coffee.





Looking Ahead

What comes next is a continuation on solid ground. More suppliers are being integrated, data structures standardized, and processes strengthened.

With the inclusion of instant coffee in the EUDR, the role of the osapiens HUB is also growing: the platform provides the framework to apply the expanded requirements to existing processes without having to start from scratch. Traceability, data management, supplier integration: all of it scales on top of what is already in place.

At DEK, sustainability and compliance topics are being systematically integrated into operational workflows, so that they are not perceived as extra effort but as part of normal business processes. The osapiens HUB is seen as a platform that enables exactly that: rather than merely fulfilling short-term requirements, it creates a foundation that remains viable well beyond that.



Do you have any questions?

Please don't hesitate to contact us
for more information.

[More Information](#)





osapiens develops software that empowers companies to drive sustainable growth across their entire value chain.

The **osapiens HUB**, a multi-tenant hyperscaler platform designed to enable cross-company collaboration and AI-automation, combines over 25 solutions in two categories: **Transparency solutions** enable companies to report on financial and non-financial data, manage supply chains, mitigate risk of all kinds (including cyber-risks and trade- and geo-political risks), and ensure compliance with product, reporting and supply chain regulations. **Efficiency solutions** enable AI-driven supplier collaboration, maintenance, service, and distribution processes to improve operational performance and strengthen competitiveness.

osapiens was founded in 2018. Headquartered in Mannheim, Germany, with offices across Europe and the United States, the company works with an international team of over 550 employees. It supports more than 2,500 customers worldwide, from SMEs to global enterprises across industries.



2,500 + Customers
60 + Countries
550 + Employees
70 + Nationalities

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