

How did you join the Supply Chain arena?

If someone would have told me 15 years ago: with 34 you will lead a plaster factory of 170 people in a foreign country and you will love it, I would have probably laughed. Since I was a child, I've loved learning, experimenting with as many new things as possible. I was striving for excellence in sport and at school, but I neither knew which job exactly I wanted to do, nor would I have had trust in myself doing this.

Good at scientific classes, my parents as biggest fans, I started, I must confess, a bit by default, some process engineering studies. I liked it but I was clearly not passionate about designing technical processes. During these studies, I did several practical placements testing different functions. As I spent one of them in the production department of a food factory, it suddenly clicked. I finally discovered what I was made for: a continuously moving environment where you have to adapt all day to the changes that may occur and in which you can surmount the changes only in managing the team of people you are working with.

This marked the start of my journey in the SC arena. 9 years within Unilever and 3 within Beiersdorf going through various supply chain positions in the headquarter and in factories, growing gradually from technical to manager roles: customer service coordinator, sales representative, process engineer and start-up leader, continuous improvement manager and operations manager.

Loving factories, passionate about transformation and making teams surpass themselves, I've been in my dream position for 1.5 years now: European factory director at Beiersdorf!

Which statement motivates or inspires you?

"It is not the strongest nor the most intelligent of species that survives. It is the one that is the most adaptable to change" – Charles Darwin



Beiersdorf



Natacha Schwaller,
Factory Director, Beiersdorf

What are you passionate about in SC?

Supply Chain is **the place to be**:

- The recent material scarcity situation we are going through shows how **vital and game changing Supply Chain can be**. Beiersdorf is currently doing better than competition Service Level wise which makes our contribution to business growth very tangible.
- In Supply Chain **everything moves very fast**, which makes each day different and represents a specific **challenge** you and your team have to **adapt to and sort out**. This fills me personally with energy, because I can contribute each day to transformation and can see very fast results.
- Supply Chain is a **super diverse function**: Safety, Operations, Quality, Engineering, Planning, Procurement, Sustainability, etc. One lifetime is not enough to try out all the marvelous functions Supply Chain offers.