

Press Information

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Logistics Workshop in the Greater Region of Luxembourg The European innovation project „Ecologistics“ supports small and medium sized companies to gain a sustainable logistics with transparent information

Logistics experts and entrepreneurs from the Greater Region met in Luxembourg on March, 25th of March 2015 to discuss the benefits and opportunities of the latest information technology in logistics for small and medium sized companies. The event had been organized by the „Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology“ (LIST) as well as the German „Institute of Production and Logistics Systems“ (IPL).

The cross-border event with participants from Belgium, Germany and Luxembourg presented the results of the European innovation project “Ecologistics” which will end in the middle of 2015.

The project aims at improving the flow of collaborative information between large companies and small and medium sized enterprises (SME) and promotes an innovative ICT tool for the synchronization of a more efficient and sustainable supply chain through the EPC (Electronic Product Code) Network.

Participants of the workshop were able to obtain detailed information about how to get more transparency in their supply chain through a reliable and convenient tracking of an object in real time that reduces transport costs and traffic, thereby improving both the cost and the environmental balance. To track and capture automatic data about supply chain objects in real time, the Ecologistics project proposes the use of the Electronic Product Code (EPC) of the GS1 EPC Global Networks in combination with a carrier like RFID tags on transported objects that can be read automatically even when they are piled on pallets.

Transparency also leads to further synergies within the company through tighter control of inventory levels or faster and more efficient order picking. This is especially interesting for transportation and supply chains in the range of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) because latest technologies are available now that support small and flexible solutions without large investments but with high potential.

A keynote speaker from GS1 presented the main pillars of the GS1 system that provides and promotes identification standards for all possible business areas. A use case demonstrated the tracking and tracing of fish and fish products in tagged boxes all the way from fishing in the sea to the packaging in the super market that has already been realized (solution provider AUXCIS). ICT service provider Logfox explained how the technics behind EPC works and what it takes to implement it. Members from the LIST institute in Luxembourg made a showcase about the EPC usage in an apparel outlet with a “tangible table” – a tool to visualize logistics processes and logistics scenarios.

A demonstrator was used to perform a real tracking of food products using EPCIS network servers in different places. In this use case, a problem with contaminated goods in the supply chain was quickly solved and the concerned goods were removed from the supply chain.

A small buffet with cheese closed the event. As special surprise, the participants were able to identify the different types of cheese with a barcode label on the plates. Thus, innovation is not only good, it also can taste good.

[2.500 letters]

About the organisers

The project “Ecologistics” is a cooperation of 12 institutions and companies from Belgium, Germany, France, Great Britain, Luxembourg and the Netherlands to demonstrate the benefits of increased transparency in supply chains for the companies involved by consistent use of existing international and cross-industry standards. Co-funded by the EU (InterregIVb) the research project specifically aims at providing concepts, methods and solutions for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Lead partner is the University of Mons (Belgium), from Germany the Institute for production and logistics systems - Prof. Schmidt is involved as project partner.

Journalists who wish to have more information about the workshop results or about the program itself can receive details from one of the contacts listed below.

Contact

University of Mons (B)
Project Coordination
Bertrand Tiberghien
Tel: +32 65 34 28 39
Fax: +32 65 34 27 98
bertrand.tiberghien@umons.ac.be
Languages: French, Dutch, English

Centre de Recherche Public Henri Tudor (Lux)
Project Communication Manager
Romain Gaasch
Tel: +352 42 59 91 -6 336
romain.gaasch@tudor.lu
Languages: French, German, English

IPL - Institut für Produktions- und Logistiksysteme Prof. Schmidt GmbH (D)
General Manager
Jörg Bernarding
Tel: +49 - (0) 6 81-9 54 31 12
Fax: +49 - (0) 6 81-9 54 31 99
joerg.bernharding@iplnet.de
Languages: German, English