

Press Information

Saarbrücken, 8th of June, 2015

Successful Conclusion of European “Ecologistics” Project

The European innovation project „Ecologistics“ for efficient and sustainable logistics in small and medium sized companies completed successfully with the final conference in Dourges/France

The project “Ecologistics”, led by Bertrand Tiberghien from University of Mons, run over a period of 3 years with the objective to introduce the latest available information and communication technology for better visibility of objects in the supply chain in small and medium sized companies. The results of the project were presented at the final conference in Dourges/France.

Ecologistics main objective is to set up an ICT-based demonstrator dedicated to identification and communication technologies in the supply chain with barcodes or more sophisticated radio frequency identification. The global available EPC (Electronic Product Code) network from GS1 is used in the project as a standard and collaborative tool designed to store and allow access to data which is collected from events in the supply chain. Those tools can help to cope with the growing complexity of supply chains that lead to delays, traceability issues and inefficient planning. An improvement with a better real-time view of operations helps both the efficiency and the environment through less logistics.

At the final conference in Dourges/France, the partners of the project now showcased the results of the project. Dr. Nicolas Rigo from DART consulting talked about the added value which is created also in small companies by visibility of the complete information in a supply chain. Yves de Blic from the Belgian research institute Multitel and Jean-Francois Piche from University of Mons revealed an Ecologistics demonstrator which can be used to showcase the flow of goods and corresponding information. Based on two different scenarios, they provided solutions for problems from urban logistics and from the food industry. All tools are open-source software, so they are free of charge for companies, in particular for SMEs of North West Europe. Participants of the congress were able to test the physical demonstrator themselves.

Benoit Seguin, finance officer of the Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS) NME program, emphasised the importance of cross-border cooperation between European companies which focus on solutions for practical tasks. Further presentations from the French company “Cartonneries de Gondardennes” and from FOREM provided details about technological implementation and implications on training required before the introduction of this new technology. They shared their experiences from EPC code introduction. Participants had the opportunity to visit the intermodal logistics platform Delta 3 with connections between rail, street and inland waterway transport systems.

[2.100 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.

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