

Press Information

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Ecologistics Demonstrator available for free The demonstrator which was build up in the Ecologistics project is now available for download.

A demonstrator helps to explain the benefits of ICT tools in supply chain management. The developed open-source software can now be downloaded on the website of the project. Based on real scenarios, company's benefits of greater transparency and communication throughout the supply chain are visualized.

The Ecologistics project has investigated the potential of increased transparency, better identification and more communication along the supply chain for companies. The focus of the project has been on small and medium businesses. Barcode and RFID technologies (Radio Frequency Identification) and the global network EPCIS (Electronic Product Code Information Services) of GS1 were used to achieve these objectives. The EPCIS network helps to identify, track and trace products in a company and within a supply chain. Objects moving through the supply chain can be marked with unique identification numbers (Electronic Product Codes – EPCs). GS1 has created different systems of EPCs to identify different object types. In the Ecologistics project, especially unique keys for products (GTIN – Global Trade Item Number), for location (GLN – Global Location Number), for logistic units (SSCC – Serial Shipping Container Code) and for returnable assets (GRAI – Global Returnable Asset Identifier) were used.

As a main result of the project, a demonstrator was developed which simulates the use of these technologies and standards. The demonstrator showcases the benefits of using these ICT tools to handle the increasing complexity of supply chains and to avoid delays, search for objects or planning problems. Based on real business models, five different scenarios for the possible use of EPCIS were created out of workshops, interviews, case studies and flow analysis. There is a presentation for each scenario on www.ecologistics-project.eu. The demonstrator specifically refers to the scenarios “Urban Logistics” and “Food Industry”. The scenarios allow tracking and tracing of parcels, products or containers in real time. The software and the knowledge of the project can be used as basis for own developments. The software is free to download and the source code can be adapted for own purposes. The demonstrator was built up for decision-makers (of companies of public authorities), logisticians and IT professionals.

[2.000 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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