



Press Release Transfer Project “Ecologistics”:

“European Workshops Outline the Benefits of the Ecologistics Project”

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Good ideas always find their way into business. In this regard, the time has come for the propositions of the Ecologistics project that are valuable for a company’s logistics and reasonable for the environment all at once.

The ideas of the project were presented in several workshops from January to March all over north-west Europe and concluded in a new concept about making logistics greener and more efficient at the same time. In Luxembourg, Germany, Belgium, in the Netherlands and in France, the workshops provided opportunity for interested companies to match the offers of the proposed new technologies with the needs of their business.

Participants could 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.

Key note speakers from GS1 presented the main pillars of the GS1 system that provides and promotes identification standards for all possible business areas. The Electronic Product Code (EPC) is able to globally track and trace events for a product and makes all associated data available through a regular web-browser. Even tracking and tracing of fish and fish products all the way from fishing in the sea to the packaging in the super market has been realized already.

ICT service providers explained how the technique behind EPC works and what it takes to implement it. Different information carriers like barcode or RFID can contain the EPC information and are used in company processes. The EPC Information System grants access to all the data.

Members from CRP Tudor in Luxembourg made a show case about the EPC usage in an apparel outlet with a “tangible table” – a tool to visualize logistics processes and logistics scenarios.

The demonstrations were followed by group discussions about functions and processes in the participant’s companies that could benefit from the new technology. The groups collected opportunities through the application of EPC/RFID and discussed potential obstacles of the

implementation in the processes. Ideas were raised from automatically generated carbon dioxide footprints for individual products up to better monitoring of rework processes.

The workshops were sponsored by the European Interreg IVb program and were free of charge for all participants. Companies interested in the project get the opportunity to analyse their logistics for EPC benefits.



Picture: Saarbrücken Ecologistics workshop at IPL Prof. Schmidt GmbH

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 (Interreg IVb) the innovation 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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