



PRESS RELEASE

Lean Secure and Reliable Logistics Connectivity for SME's: an European research project aimed at enabling logistics SMEs to take part in international trade and commerce flows

Logistics customers love speed, predictability, security and knowing where their shipment is. That is why logistics industry is constantly looking for ways to enhance efficiency, improve service and lower costs. The big players meet the new market requirements easily whereas small ones have limited opportunities to follow these changes. The common objective of LogiCon project is to raise the position of SMEs and get them with affordable, reliable and trusted IT solutions so to enable them to take part in international trade and commerce flows. LogiCon aims at setting up, testing and facilitating the adoption of low-cost, low-barrier Data Connectivity Solutions.

The Commission is promoting intermodal transport, as environment-friendly and energy-efficient approach. The simplification of communication between different transport modes is essential in order to make intermodality more attractive. The LogiCon project is aimed at facilitating the development of efficient ICT solutions for logistics SMEs that will be capable of meeting current and future communication needs. Besides proposing a very basic ICT that can be affordable and easily adopted by SMEs, LogiCon proposes the new business models to make cooperation in co-modal supply chains commonplace in practice.

Project ambition is to develop simple and pragmatic targeted solutions for data exchange in trade and logistics that improve communication through digitisation of documents exchange. Logicon aims to enable SMEs collaboration with advanced platforms by providing them with solutions (apps, communication platforms, market places), removing technological barriers and establishing partnerships with existing logistic platforms.

The project activities are carried out in four national living labs, each one with specific objectives, dealing with three main challenges: enabling connectivity for SMEs acting in logistics market, engaging communities, either cargo communities around port and inland terminals or business networks and preparing for cooperation in a global freight ecosystem.

The objective of the Polish Living Lab is to implement new business models of intermodal transport collaboration and coordination that is supported by an innovative communication platform. A communication platform will enable information sharing for the hinterland planning processes by all parties involved. The functionality includes among others exchange of bookings for intermodal transport,



allocation of bookings to rail wagons, exchange of loading and unloading plans and status, monitoring of execution.

The Dutch LL is to create a light-weight, low-cost and flexible infrastructure for sharing data including dedicated apps and services. These apps and services will enable e.g. lock planning supporting both barge operators and Rijkswaterstaat and an advanced connection to existing system where real-time information of terminal services will become available.

The Spanish Living Lab is to enable small transport service providers automatic data exchange with large forwarders. LogiCon delivers apps for web and smart devices for truck drivers to support service information exchange, e.g. tracking of truck departure and arrival, creating and sending of transport orders and invoices.

The Italian Living Lab LogiCon delivers a web-based transport market place where SMEs can offer their transport services to potential customers engaging new business opportunities.

Given the steady increase in the efficiency of road transport, other transport modes also needs to become more competitive. The Commission's objective is to promote the creation of a European freight network on which freight transport could offer a better quality of service in terms of journey times, reliability and capacity and to enable all market players to be involved.

Following EU assumptions „Freight transport is essential for the competitiveness of the European economy and for the quality of life of EU citizens. It is estimated that the volumes of goods transported in Europe will increase by 50% between 2000 and 2020. In the years ahead, freight transport must address the challenges of efficiency, quality and sustainability. It will therefore need to come up with suitable responses to the problems of congestion, climate change (freight transport is responsible for one third of the CO₂ emissions arising from transport), and energy supply and security. At the same time, the new information and communication technologies and the influence of European freight transport on the global market offer major opportunities for the future.”

For more information on LogiCon project:

<http://www.logicon-project>.