Logistics for Life

Logistics Industry Coalition for Long-term, ICT-based Freight Transport Efficiency.

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Editorial

Logistics for LIFE is a Coordination Action aiming bringing together leading logistic companies, technology providers and research organizations working on innovative ICT solutions to ensure long-term sustainability of the logistic industry by increasing its operational efficiency. The project is motivated by freight transport heavy reliance on fossil fuel, its contribution to CO_2 emissions and by its impact on the environment and quality of life. These issues are counterbalanced by considerations specific to the logistics industry, where attempts to direct cargo towards environment friendly transport modes are failing to meet expectations and firms face problems of volatile fuel prices, infrastructures saturation and low margins typical of a commoditized sector.

Most of the stakeholders in the logistic sector are micro, small and medium sized companies with little financial resources, but in order to stay competitive it is essential for them to get access to new concept assuring that their specific needs for easy technical implementation at low cost will be taken into consideration. Logistics for LIFE will collect and harmonize information on existing, national and international initiatives and projects, and will make it available to any interested community member in such a way that they can map existing solutions on their requirements. Our project will also identify research gaps and set the scope of future initiatives through open discussion and creation of a common roadmap. You are all invited to join our community at www.intelligentcargo.eu!

News from WP1:Survey, Synergy, Observatory: First analysis of interesting projects and best practices available

There are many research activities within efficient ICT based freight transport. Mostly results are available for public access, but difficult to identify. The problem of identification is leveraged by the fact that it is hardly possible to search for a suitable solution of a problem in any database, since no common terminology has been defined and project information is stored at several different places in different languages. Consequently, some project results remain undiscovered and double work needs to be carried out. Hence, the objective of WP 1 – Survey, Observatory and Synergy is to collect as much information on relevant projects and initiatives, analyze the content and potential impact provide this information. In a first step, D1.1 the observatory report has been published. This observatory report gives an overview over relevant project dealing with ICT based solution for the long term sustainability of efficient freight transport.

One Common Framework for Information and Communication Systems in Transport and Logistics

The above heading is the title of a report that has been jointly written by a number of EU funded projects. During the ECITL conference in Venice in 2009, representatives for the projects FREIGHTWISE, e-Freight, RISING (DG MOVE), INTEGRITY, Smart-CM (DG RTD), SMARTFREIGHT, EURIDICE (DG INFSO), and DiSCwise (DG Enterprise) met to discuss the possibilities of developing one Common Framework. These projects represent a long line of development projects funded the EU Commission in the area of freight transport management and related security issues. Most of these projects have been loyal to the standardisation schemes offered by organisations like CEN and UN/CEFACT in the important area of information exchange in transport and logistics. In other words, electronic documents standardised by these organisations were implemented in these projects. As a result, there is no inherent interoperability of the results from these projects. There has been no culture for close cooperation between projects in the past.

Initiatives form industry and logistics associations around the world also indicate that the time is ripe for establishing a new paradigm for interoperability in freight transport and logistics. Examples of such initiatives comes from the standardisation organisation GS1, form the US Department of Transport and from Supply Chain Visibility workshops of APEC.

The basis for the Common Framework is the recognition that the relevant stakeholders may be divided into 4 groups, or roles: The *Transport User* (or Logistics Services Client), the *Transport Service Provider* (or Logistics Services Provider), the *Transportation Network Manager*, and the *Transport Regulator*

This definition of roles leads to a division of the area of freight transport and logistics in 4 domains, one associated with each role; see Figure 1. The Transport User is associated with Transport demand, The Transport service Provider with Transport Supply, the Transportation Network Manager with Co-operative System and The Transport regulator with Supply Chain Security and Compliance.

The Common Framework identifies information to be exchanged between these different roles (domains) and explains the coverage of the different projects on these domains. One important observation is that the concept of Intelligent Cargo does not give rise to

new domains, but is considered a philosophy for implementation that utilises the processing and storage capabilities of active RFID tags or similar technologies.
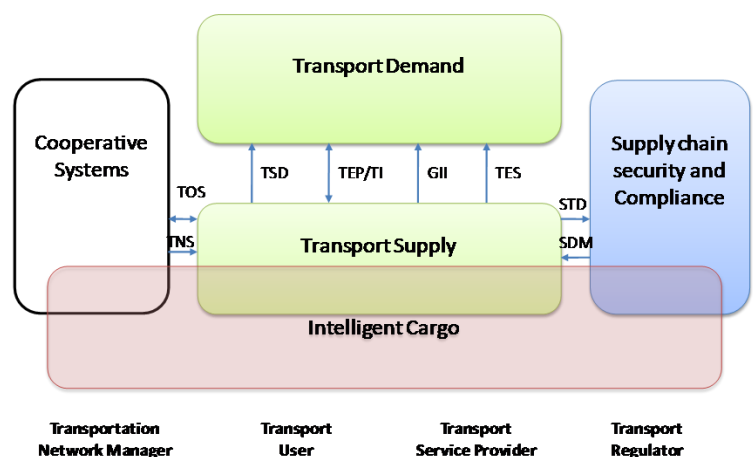
The Common Framework will be discussed in the 3rd ECITL in Bremen in November 2010.

The Common Framework is the culmination of a long development that started in Norway in the late 1990 -ies. Norwegian authorities inspired the development of a multimodal framework for transport at that time, and for the next few years, the ARKTRANS Framework was developed until version 6.

After some time, Norwegian funding for ARKTRANS development was supplemented by EU funding. Specifically projects like D2D and MarNIS contributed to ARKTRANS refinement. The development of the Framework accelerated when ARKTRANS was used as a basis in the project FREIGHTWISE and SMARTFREIGHT, two projects that were having internal cooperation due to the fact that partners participated in both projects and thereby exchange experiences. Following this experience, and taking into account that DG MOVE wanted to further use FREIGHTWISE results, the RISING project applied and enhanced the Framework. The last year, all the projects mentioned in the introduction and Logistics 4 Life joined in the Framework development. Hence, we may say that we now truly have One Common Framework.

L4L at ICT 2010

The ICT 2010 event took place from Sept. 27 to 29, in Brussels, Belgium. This is one of the largest events organized by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Information Society and Media, hosted in the country of the European Presidency. One main reason for this conference is that research and innovation in ICT benefits the European citizen, consequently the European Commission undertakes several actions in order to support such European activities.
Thus, the ICT 2010 event is the most important place to get to know about new light house projects as well as upcoming trends in the research landscape. Additional to the main speeches, the conference also host numerous workshops as well as a large exhibition area giving light house projects the possibility to demonstrate their on the edge technology development or applications.

Logistic for Life had the opportunity to be present at the EURIDCIE booth, which was in the Green ICT area of the exhibition. As a cluster project aiming at increasing the efficiency of freight transport by implementing ICT, many of the booth visitors got interested both in the project objective itself as well as the upcoming ECITL conference in Bremen. Our presentation at the booth gave us the possibility to invite new participants to the Intelligent Cargo forum as well as to get them interested into our project's vision.

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More than 100 projects have been identified and analysed on international, national and regional level. The results are not static, research projects will change over the life time of the project. The observatory shows that the topic has been relevant for several years esp. at European level, and that several solutions supporting at least one sustainability dimension- both on a software level as well as on a business model and framework level are available. The analysis shows:

- several interesting ICT solutions, so the technology is available, but the practical application, information on ROI and efforts needed in order to implement lack. Main reason is that research projects deliver solutions at a pre-competitive level with prototype implementation. These projects need to be taken to the next steps and the solutions need to be more explored. Additionally, the results needs time to penetrate the supply chain and transport sector, before it will reach the critical mass. L4L will support this process by leveraging the information to a broader audience.

- Looking at the different ICT solutions– there are only few projects and initiatives for green and cost effective freight transport. Interesting is thus, that this seems to have an increasing relevance for the logistic service providers and freight carriers.

Based upon these results, around 15 projects dealing with ICT solution supporting energy efficiency within the freight sector have been chosen. The relevance of each project was evaluated according to the following main categories:

- Positioning (needs to deal with freight transport)

- ICT solution and supported functionalities

- Impacts at financial, , environmental and societal level

The following projects have provided information and results to L4L in such away that it has been possible to evaluate their impact according to the aim of our best practices: Smart-CM, Integrity, NS Fritz, CVIS, D2D, Smartfreight, Freightwise, Freightvision, eFreight, Be Logic, Cassandra, Transeco, EURO-FOT and DHL go Green.

These projects contribute to the objective at different levels– a project like Freightvision deals with policy aspects were as others like SmartCM, Integrity, Freightwise and NS Fritz offer ICT solutions relevant, but all projects have their own focus.
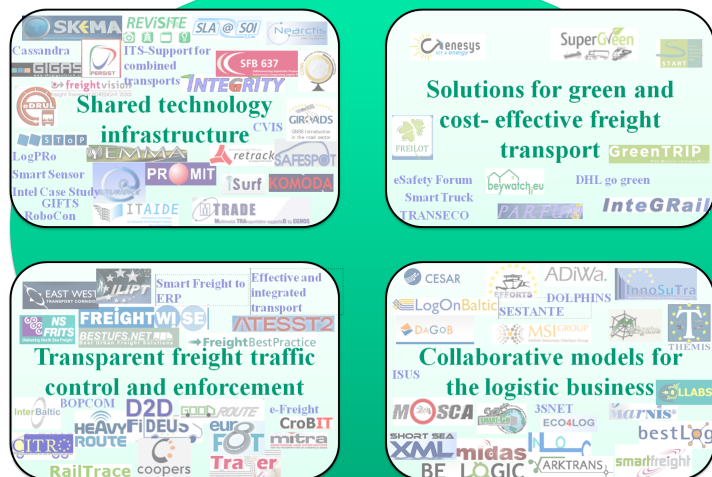
This is the first of three reports, and some projects like EURIDICE; Discwise and Rising have been identi-fied as very relevant projects, but since they do not have evaluated results yet, they will be presented in the next report instead. Most of the projects contributes to collaborative and interoperable freight manage-ment and to vehicle efficiency and green navigation, as well as cargo information services, data– infra-structure and freight monitoring. They offer ICT solution based on state-of the art technologies and using relevant standards in order to deal with any interoperability problem.

The consortium believes that it is important to involve the user of such potential solutions, since they know their requirement on ICT-based systems for energy efficient freight transport at the best. Consequently, the consortium has, together with the EURIDICE project launched a forum, the Intelligent Cargo Forum, in which all results as well as the possibility for taking part in the discussions on the topic. This forum can be visited at: http://www.intelligentcargo.eu/

You may download the reports under:http://www.intelligentcargo.eu/node/39

You are also welcomed to join our group at LinkedIn. We are looking forward to your contribution and feedback

News from WP 2: leveraging and catalysing knowledge on freight transport efficiency

The first version of the L4L Knowledge Base is now available on-line. The Knowledge Base is based on an existing platform devel-oped by eBOS Technolo-gies in the European re-search project SKEMA. The same platform has also been used in other Euro-pean projects under the 7th Framework Program, like e-Freight and PROPS. Its design and structure are adapted to the L4L taxon-omy and needs.

This first version presents the initial L4LIFE Knowl-edge Base where the con-tent is structured from ARK-TRANS function indexes, which defines the taxonomy in L4L. Based on content and feedback from the pro-ject, especially WP1 (the best practises) and WP4 (including the Intelligent Cargo Forum), the framework will continue to evolve.

The L4L Knowledge Base can be found on www.ebostechnology.com/logisticsforlife with screenshots and descriptions provided here.

Project Coordinator

Paolo Paganelli
Insiel Spa

Mobil: Mob. +393346324553
E-Mail: paolo.paganelli@insiel.it.m

Future events

The ECITL 10 on the 4th and 5th November in Bremen is strongly supported by Logistics for LIFE

The increased importance of ICT systems for the implementation of new holistic green logistics concepts has been recognized by stakeholders and researchers in the logistics sector. Therefore this year's conference focuses on the adoption of commercial viable integration of various solutions as developed particularly through EU funded research. The conference will look into different processes, services and functions of the different solutions, e.g. the provision of vital information in transport logistics, and it will explain how ICT can support information and process integration for economic and environment efficient transport solutions. It will demonstrate that it is possible to unchain the solutions and integrate them in a network in which different systems can share information. Topics will include logistics concepts and interoperable platforms for close cooperation in supply networks and logistics operations, additionally addressing different aspects, e.g. Security, Visibility, Intelligent Cargo and Vehicles, from both business and technical points of view, including academic research.

This international event is organized by the University of Applied Sciences Vorarlberg (FHV) and several EU funded projects (Logistics for LIFE, e-FREIGHT, EURIDICE, INTEGRITY, SMART-CM and SMART-FREIGHT) The local host for this conference will be the Institute of Shipping Economics and Logistics (ISL) co-located in Bremen and Bremerhaven.

TARGET GROUP
The conference will be of specific interest for executives in the logistics industry, shippers and researchers in the field.

REGISTRATION
The conference fee for the 3rd ECITL in Bremen is EUR 300,– and includes the conference proceedings, the catering and the Gala dinner on the 4th of November invited and hosted by the Senator for Economic Affairs and Ports Mr. Martin Günthner.

Additional and up-to-date information about the event can be found on the conference website