

“Urban Goods Transport Policy Making & Experiences” – Regional Logistics Competence in Brussels

Open ENLoCC, the network of regional logistics competence centers in Europe, on 2 April 2014 held a seminar in Brussels about “Urban Goods Transport Policy Making & Experiences” at the “Brussels Info Place” (BIP), organized together with the MOBI (Mobility, Logistics and Automotive Technology Research Group) institute of logistics professor Cathy Macharis of Brussels Free University and the Straightsol (7FP) and SMILE (MED ERDF) EU-funded projects. Besides Professor Macharis, keynote speakers were Professor Michael Browne and Professor Jose Holguin-Veras. The participants were welcomed by Joost De Bock of the European Commission’s DG Research.

Professor Michael Browne from the University of Westminster is specialist for urban freight traffic and international logistics development. His keynote stressed the challenge of transforming good ideas and projects into everyday practices. Professor Jose Holguin-Veras is the William H. Hart Professor and Director of the Center for Infrastructure, Transportation, and the Environment, as well as of the Volvo Research and Educational Foundations’ Center of Excellence on Sustainable Urban Freight Systems at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in New York. His work has received numerous awards, including the 2013 White House Champion of Change Award for his contributions to freight transportation and disaster response research. His keynote was about Freight Demand Management as the next frontier for sustainable urban freight systems, using the case of Manhattan to put special emphasis on off-hour deliveries.

The Open ENLoCC members reported their regional experience in short and straightforward presentations. In this so called “pecha kucha” style, twenty slides are presented and commented for exactly 20 seconds each. This resulted in ample time for debate, creating new impulses among the 100 participants. The reception rounded the afternoon off and gave space for networking.

The seminar is part of a series of events by Open ENLoCC in Brussels. Last year, the role of regional logistics competence centers was elaborated during another meeting at the European Parliament. The next events’ topics are the European hinterland traffic and the use of ICT in logistics.

The yearly General Assembly of the Open ENLoCC network was held in context with the seminar in Brussels for the first time. Alberto Preti, of the Institute of Transport and Logistics from the Italian Emilia Romagna region and president of the network explained that the increasing activities in 2013 also led to more visibility of Open ENLoCC and its members among the actors in Brussels.

Open ENLoCC at the moment has 17 member institutions from 11 countries. Open ENLoCC aims to integrate the regional logistics knowledge and to make available the knowledge that is generated by the members through multiple project work.

More information about Open ENLoCC and its members can be found at www.openenlocc.net.

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