

OPEN ENLOCC NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 2
JULY 2026



EDITION'S TOPICS

- **20 years** of OPEN ENLoCC
- Meet the **new members** of OPEN ENLoCC
- Highlights of the latest **General Assembly**
- OPEN ENLoCC at **TRA Conference 2026** in Budapest
- The latest updates from the **OPEN ENLoCC projects**



Highlights from the last OPEN ENLoCC General Assembly

On 23 June, the OPEN ENLoCC General Assembly was held, bringing together the members to elect the new Board of Directors of the network. [On page 18.](#)



OPEN ENLoCC takes the stage at TRA 2026

OPEN ENLoCC and its members brought their experience in fostering the development of logistics at the regional level across the European Union. [On page 19.](#)



20 years of OPEN ENLoCC: from regional expertise to European impact

Twenty years ago, OPEN ENLoCC was born from a simple but ambitious idea: bringing together regions, competence centres, public authorities and research organisations across Europe to collaborate on logistics and transport innovation.

Today, as we celebrate the 20th anniversary of our network, that idea has grown into a strong and dynamic European community committed to shaping more sustainable, resilient and connected logistics systems. [On page 2.](#)

About OPEN ENLoCC

Founded in 2006, Open ENLoCC (European Network of Logistics Competence Centres) evolved from the EU project "ENLoCC" as an independent, non-profit association (ASBL) based in Brussels.



Our mission from the beginning:

- Foster collaboration among European regions on transport and logistics innovation.
- Connect competence centres, regional authorities and research institutions.
- Share knowledge and best practices to improve regional competitiveness.
- Promote cooperation with European institutions on sustainable and digital logistics.

[Read More on our website](#)



TO EMPOWER REGIONS TO INNOVATE IN LOGISTICS THROUGH COLLABORATION AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

We act as a European platform connecting logistics competence centres, public authorities, and research organisations to:

- Share experiences and best practices.
- Develop solutions for sustainable and digital logistics.
- Support regional collaborative logistics as a key enabler of the green and digital transitions.
- Strengthen dialogue between regions and EU institutions.



The main goal of the network is the **international exchange of experience and knowledge** between its participants and the promotion of a higher level of cooperation with European institutions. The members of Open ENLoCC work together on common projects with the aim to **develop the regional economy by solving infrastructural, organisational and technological problems of logistics and transport**. The dissemination of the results of the network activities and the best practices take place on a wide scale, involving all the key bodies at EU level.

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From regional expertise to European impact: 20 years of OPEN ENLoCC

Celebrating the past, shaping the future of logistics

Twenty years ago, OPEN ENLoCC was born from a simple but ambitious idea: bringing together regions, competence centres, public authorities and research organisations across Europe to collaborate on logistics and transport innovation.

Today, as **we celebrate the 20th anniversary of our network**, that idea has grown into a strong and dynamic European community committed to shaping more sustainable, resilient and connected logistics systems.

Over the past two decades, OPEN ENLoCC has evolved alongside Europe itself. From the early discussions on regional logistics cooperation to today's challenges linked to decarbonisation, digitalisation, supply chain resilience and territorial cohesion, the network has continuously worked to connect local expertise with European priorities.

This anniversary is not only an opportunity to look back at what we have achieved together, but also **to reflect on the value of collaboration.** OPEN ENLoCC has always believed that innovation in logistics starts from regions: from ports, cities, inland terminals, industrial districts, universities and competence centres working together to develop practical and shared solutions.

Throughout these years, our members have contributed to European projects, pilot actions, policy discussions and knowledge exchange activities that have strengthened the role of Regional Logistics Competence Centres within the European logistics ecosystem. **What makes OPEN ENLoCC unique is precisely this capacity to connect territories, experiences and people around a common vision.**

This edition of the newsletter is dedicated to celebrating this journey. In the following pages, you will discover a short overview of the history of OPEN ENLoCC, an interview with our President Giuseppe Luppino, testimonials from long-standing members and reflections on the future of the network.

At the same time, this issue also brings updates from the OPEN ENLoCC community: from the latest General Assembly and our participation in TRA 2026, to news from ongoing European projects, as well as the welcoming of new members joining our growing network.

Twenty years represent an important milestone, but also a new starting point. The challenges ahead require even stronger cooperation among regions, institutions and logistics stakeholders. OPEN ENLoCC will continue to act as a platform for dialogue, innovation and knowledge exchange, supporting the transition towards smarter, greener and more resilient logistics systems across Europe.

Thank you to all our members, partners and friends who have contributed to this journey over the years. The story of OPEN ENLoCC is, above all, a collective story, and the next chapter starts now.

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20 Years of OPEN ENLoCC

Our history in a nutshell

OPEN ENLoCC – the European Network of Logistics Competence Centres – was **officially founded in 2006 as an independent non-profit association based in Brussels**, building on the experience and results of the European ENLoCC project.

Since the beginning, the network has shared one clear mission: **strengthening cooperation among European regions on transport and logistics innovation.**

Over the last 20 years, OPEN ENLoCC has progressively grown into a **European platform connecting Regional Logistics Competence Centres, public authorities, universities, research organisations and innovation stakeholders** working together to improve freight transport systems and regional competitiveness.



Open ENLoCC archive photo.

*In **2016**, **Desireé Oen**, long-standing member of the cabinet of the European Commissioner for Transport, delivered the keynote speech at the public meeting celebrating the **10th anniversary of the Open ENLoCC network in Brussels.***



What started as a network focused on exchanging experiences and best practices has evolved into a **recognised European community** actively contributing to discussions on sustainable logistics, regional collaborative logistics, urban freight, intermodality, digitalisation and supply chain resilience.

Throughout its history, OPEN ENLoCC has supported and participated in numerous **European projects and initiatives**, helping regions test innovative logistics solutions, strengthen cooperation across territories and bridge the gap between local needs and European policies.

The network has always promoted a key principle: **Europe is built on regions, and logistics innovation must be developed through collaboration between territories, institutions and stakeholders.** Over the years, OPEN ENLoCC has:

- **fostered knowledge exchange** among regional logistics ecosystems;
- **supported the development of the Regional Collaborative Logistics** approach;
- **contributed to European policy discussions** on transport and logistics;
- **promoted sustainable and digital logistics solutions**;
- **strengthened connections** between local realities and EU institutions.

Today, after 20 years of activities, **OPEN ENLoCC continues to grow** as an open and collaborative network committed to supporting greener, smarter and more resilient logistics systems across Europe. Because behind every project, every meeting and every initiative, there is a shared belief: **innovation happens when regions work together.**

20 Years of OPEN ENLoCC

Interview with the President, **Giuseppe Luppino**

OPEN ENLoCC is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. Looking back, what do you consider the most important achievement of the network?

I believe our greatest achievement has been the continuity of the network itself. For twenty years, our members have continued to believe in the value of working together across regions, despite the many changes in the logistics sector and in European priorities. **A key milestone was the transformation of OPEN ENLoCC from an informal network into a recognised non-profit association with its own governance and dedicated staff.** This gave the organisation greater stability, credibility and the capacity to develop projects, policy activities and services for our members on a daily basis. In recent years, we have focused on consolidating the network and building a solid organisation capable of supporting its members. We certainly do not consider this the final destination, but rather the foundation for the next phase of our development.

OPEN ENLoCC has always promoted collaboration among regions, competence centres and institutions. Why is this regional dimension so important for the future of logistics in Europe?

The regional dimension is fundamental because this is where most freight transport actually takes place. Across Europe, the vast majority of transport companies are SMEs, often employing only one or two people, and much freight transport serves regional industrial supply chains. These daily operations are the backbone of the European economy, yet they are still often organised through phone calls, messaging apps or spreadsheets. Large companies have invested significantly in digitalisation, but many smaller operators still lack access to affordable and practical digital tools. **This is where regions and logistics competence centres play a crucial role. They can create the right conditions for innovation** by supporting shared services, digital solutions and collaborative approaches that are accessible also to SMEs.

Innovation should not become an additional burden for transport operators. **Our objective is to make logistics more efficient, more sustainable and more resilient** while respecting the operational reality of the companies that perform transport every day. This is why OPEN ENLoCC strongly believes in the concept of Regional Collaborative Logistics: improving collaboration at regional level allows public authorities, research organisations and private operators to work together and create tangible benefits for the entire logistics ecosystem.

Giuseppe Luppino
President of OPEN ENLoCC



20 Years of OPEN ENLoCC

Interview with the President, **Giuseppe Luppino**

Over the years, the logistics sector has changed significantly, from digitalisation to sustainability challenges. How has OPEN ENLoCC evolved to respond to these transformations?

Logistics has changed dramatically over the last twenty years. Digitalisation, decarbonisation, data sharing and resilience have become central themes, but these transformations do not happen automatically. They need organisations capable of connecting innovation with real operations. This is exactly how OPEN ENLoCC has evolved.

As a Network of Regional Logistics Competence Centres, we work at the interface between the public and the private sectors. We help public authorities better understand the real needs of logistics operators while encouraging companies to participate in collaborative initiatives and innovation projects.

European programmes such as Horizon Europe generate many promising technologies and innovative concepts. **Our role is to help regions understand how these innovations can be translated into practical solutions, tested through pilot projects and eventually adopted in everyday logistics operations.** We remain neutral with regard to specific technologies. Our objective is not to promote one solution over another, but to help regions identify those innovations that respond to real operational needs and create value for companies, especially SMEs. When innovation improves efficiency, resilience and sustainability, it becomes a real opportunity rather than simply a technological exercise.

One of the strengths of the network is its European community of members and partners. What value does this collaboration bring to the organisations involved?

The value of OPEN ENLoCC lies above all in the exchange of experience among its members. Since its creation, the network has provided a space where regional logistics competence centres can compare approaches, share practical experiences and learn from one another. In the past, this exchange was also supported by the EU Review of Regional Logistics, which became an important reference for disseminating knowledge on regional logistics. Today, **the network has strengthened its operational capacity, particularly in supporting members in European projects, research and innovation activities.** Members do not join simply to receive services; they join because they need a trusted environment where they can discuss common challenges, develop new ideas and build partnerships. OPEN ENLoCC offers a professional but friendly community where collaboration develops naturally.

Another important value is the **opportunity to create European projects together.** The network helps members identify common priorities, build project consortia and transfer project results back into the community. In this way, innovation does not remain confined to individual projects but becomes shared knowledge that can be discussed, validated and applied in different regional contexts.

20 Years of OPEN ENLoCC

Interview with the President, **Giuseppe Luppino**

OPEN ENLoCC has contributed to many European projects and policy discussions. Is there a project, initiative or moment in the network's history that particularly represents its spirit and mission?

Although OPEN ENLoCC officially became a non-profit association in 2019, the network has been working together since 2006. Even before having a formal legal structure, many of our members collaborated in European projects, building expertise and developing common approaches to regional logistics.

Among the many initiatives - Including CORELOG, REIF, ISTEN, RAILHUC, CASTLE, SUCCESS, SUGAR, GRETA, Food4CE and others - I believe that **SULPiTER best represents the spirit of our network.**

SULPiTER was much more than a research project. It brought together several OPEN ENLoCC members to develop Sustainable Urban Logistics Plans at the metropolitan level, moving beyond the traditional view of city logistics limited to the city centre. Instead, it recognised that freight transport must be planned across a wider functional territory where industries, logistics platforms, terminals and cities are interconnected. The project also helped us better distinguish between industrial logistics and urban distribution logistics, two complementary dimensions that require different planning approaches but often they are overlapping.

Working in parallel with initiatives such as NOVELOG, SULPiTER also inspired a broader reflection that continues today within OPEN ENLoCC. We realised that, while the OECD concept of Functional Urban Areas (FUA) is based on the systematic movements of people, freight follows a different logic. Goods move through logistics nodes: ports, terminals, warehouses, interports, consolidation centres, lockers and pick-up points. This has led us to further develop the concept of Functional Logistics Areas (FLA). FLA should not be seen as an evolution of Regional Collaborative Logistics, but rather as the functional territory where Regional Collaborative Logistics can take place. While RCL describes the collaborative approach among logistics actors, FLA helps identify the nodes, flows and territorial relationships where this collaboration is needed: ports, terminals, warehouses, interports, consolidation centres, lockers and pick-up points.

In this sense, FLA provides the spatial and functional framework for applying RCL in a more concrete and operational way. For me, this perfectly represents the mission of OPEN ENLoCC: transforming European research into practical methodologies that help regions build more efficient, sustainable and resilient logistics systems.

***Giuseppe Luppino** (right), President of OPEN ENLoCC, during the 2021 ceremony marking OPEN ENLoCC's admission to the Scandria Alliance as an Associated Member at the Alliance's General Assembly in Berlin.*



20 Years of OPEN ENLoCC

Interview with the President, **Giuseppe Luppino**

Looking ahead, what is your vision for OPEN ENLoCC in the next 10 years? What challenges and opportunities do you see for the network and for regional logistics in Europe?

I have had the honour of serving as President of OPEN ENLoCC for the past ten years, and this year I was re-elected for a third mandate. I see this as both a recognition and a responsibility.

After a period of consolidation, **I believe OPEN ENLoCC must now enter a new phase.** Our ambition should be to strengthen cooperation with other European networks. We do not overlap with organisations such as ALICE, which focuses on logistics innovation, POLIS, which works on urban mobility, or ERRIN, which supports regional innovation ecosystems. Instead, we bring a specific perspective that is often missing: the regional dimension of freight transport and logistics.

Our challenge is to further develop the concept of Regional Collaborative Logistics and make it an operational reality. The objective is to help logistics systems become more efficient, responsive, sustainable and resilient while supporting the competitiveness of Europe's regions.

Innovation must not remain limited to the small number of companies that already have the resources to invest. Most transport and logistics companies operate every day with very limited margins. We need to work alongside them, helping them adopt innovation and sustainability in ways that are practical, affordable and beneficial for their business.

European projects will continue to play an important role in this process. Initiatives such as TRANSEND, focused on critical logistics infrastructures, demonstrate how regions, universities, research centres, companies and public authorities can work together to address common challenges and contribute to European priorities from a regional perspective. My vision is that, over the next decade, OPEN ENLoCC becomes the European reference network for regional logistics cooperation. If we succeed, we will help regions become greener, more connected and more resilient, while ensuring that European innovation is translated into practical solutions that improve the daily work of logistics operators and SMEs.

***Giuseppe Luppino** together with members of OPEN ENLoCC at the ALICE Logistics Innovation Summit 2025*



20 Years of OPEN ENLoCC

Interview with **Orestis Tsolakis** from Center of Research and Technology Hellas (CERTH)

How long has your organisation been part of OPEN ENLoCC? What attracted you to the network at the time?

CERTH has been a member of OPEN ENLoCC for many years and, to the best of my knowledge, has been involved in the network since its early stages. While I am not aware of the exact year of accession, as I was not part of the organisation at that time, it is clear that CERTH recognised early on the value of a European network dedicated to bringing together logistics competence centres. **The main attraction of OPEN ENLoCC was its vision of creating a platform where organisations with expertise in logistics, freight transport, and regional development could collaborate, exchange knowledge, and jointly address common challenges.** Given the growing importance of logistics for both the European and global economy, the establishment of such a network represented a forward-looking initiative with significant potential. Over time, this vision has proven to be well founded. OPEN ENLoCC has developed into a community that facilitates cooperation, promotes innovation, and supports the development of projects and initiatives that contribute to more efficient, sustainable, and collaborative logistics systems across Europe.

How has being part of OPEN ENLoCC benefited your organisation or your professional experience?

Being part of OPEN ENLoCC has been highly beneficial both for CERTH as an organisation and for my own professional development. The network has provided access to a diverse community of organisations that are active in the field of logistics and freight transport, facing many of the same challenges while pursuing similar objectives. From an organisational perspective, **OPEN ENLoCC has facilitated the development of new partnerships and collaborations for pursuing the same goals and sharing experiences**, which also have evolved into a successful project initiative. On a personal level, participation in the network has broadened my professional perspective, and provided opportunities to engage with leading experts and practitioners in the field, ultimately contributing to my growth as a researcher and professional in the logistics sector.

Orestis Tsolakis
Research Associate
CERTH



CERTH
CENTRE FOR
RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY
HELLAS



20 Years of OPEN ENLoCC

Interview with **Orestis Tsolakis** from Center of Research and Technology Hellas (CERTH)

Over the years, how have you seen the OPEN ENLoCC community evolve?

The OPEN ENLoCC community has evolved significantly, both in terms of its size and influence. The network has expanded its membership base, bringing together a broader range of expertise and achieving stronger geographical coverage across Europe. At the same time, it has strengthened its organisational capacity by developing a dedicated core team responsible for supporting and coordinating its activities. A major milestone in this evolution has been the community's increasing participation in EU-funded projects, which has enhanced its knowledge base and collaborative capacity but has also raised its visibility at international conferences, events, and policy forums. Alongside this growth, **OPEN ENLoCC is gradually shaping a more distinctive identity, particularly through the promotion of the regional collaborative logistics concept as a key pillar of its work.** The network has also reinforced its strategic position within the wider European logistics and innovation ecosystem through its collaboration and affiliation with ALICE. I believe that these developments can help transform OPEN ENLoCC into an even more recognised European community that actively contributes to shaping discussions and initiatives on sustainable and collaborative logistics

Is there a specific project, meeting or collaboration within the network that you particularly remember and why?

I would highlight a face-to-face meeting of the network that took place in Brussels several years ago and which I had the opportunity to attend. Although not all members were able to participate, it was a particularly memorable experience, as it provided **an excellent opportunity to exchange views and discuss a wide range of challenges and opportunities related to collaborative logistics.** Also, it was during these discussions that

the initial idea for the MED COLOURS project emerged. This idea evolved into a very successful Interreg Euro-MED project, bringing together many members of the network as well as OPEN ENLoCC itself.

Looking back, this meeting clearly demonstrated the value of the network in fostering collaboration, generating new ideas, and turning them into concrete initiatives with tangible impact.

***Orestis Tsolakis** together with **Marco Alvi** (Open ENLoCC) and representatives of **ITL** (Open ENLoCC members and coordinators of the MED COLOURS project) at the TRA Conference 2026*



20 Years of OPEN ENLoCC

Interview with **Orestis Tsolakis** from Center of Research and Technology Hellas (CERTH)

What keeps OPEN ENLoCC relevant today?

OPEN ENLoCC remains highly relevant today because the challenges facing logistics and freight transport have become increasingly complex and interconnected. Decarbonisation, digitalisation, supply chain resilience, energy transition, urban logistics, and the integration of new technologies all require collaboration across sectors, regions, and disciplines. In this context, **OPEN ENLoCC provides a unique platform where competence centres can exchange experiences, share knowledge, and jointly develop solutions.** The network also plays an important role in bridging the gap between research, policy, and practice. Through collaborative projects, working groups, and stakeholder engagement activities, **OPEN ENLoCC helps transform innovative ideas into practical solutions that can be tested and replicated across Europe.** Its strong focus on regional collaborative logistics and its ability to bring together organisations with complementary expertise continue to provide significant added value to its members. At a time when logistics is increasingly recognised as a strategic enabler of economic competitiveness, sustainability, and territorial cohesion, the role of a trusted European network such as OPEN ENLoCC is more important than ever.

How do you envision OPEN ENLoCC in the future?

I envision OPEN ENLoCC evolving into an even stronger European reference point for collaborative logistics, bringing together regions, cities, research organisations, industry stakeholders, and policy makers to jointly address emerging challenges and opportunities. **As logistics systems become increasingly digital, interconnected, and sustainability-driven, the network can play a key role in facilitating the exchange of knowledge, experiences, and innovative practices across Europe.** I would also like to see OPEN ENLoCC strengthening its influence in European research and innovation activities, acting as a catalyst for new project ideas and strategic partnerships, while also contributing more actively to policy discussions at both European and regional levels. **The network is uniquely positioned to help translate local experiences and pilot implementations into recommendations that can support wider deployment and replication.** At the same time, OPEN ENLoCC could further consolidate and promote the concept of Regional Collaborative Logistics as a recognised approach to improving the efficiency, resilience, and sustainability of logistics systems. Ultimately, I see OPEN ENLoCC becoming not only a network for exchanging knowledge but also a recognised European voice helping shape the future of logistics and freight transport.

20 Years of OPEN ENLoCC

Interview with **Tomislav Letnik** from University of Maribor

How long has your organisation been part of OPEN ENLoCC? What attracted you to the network at the time?

The University of Maribor has been part of OPEN ENLoCC for more than 15 years. What attracted us was its distinct regional perspective on logistics. Logistics challenges rarely stop at administrative borders, yet their consequences are often most visible and must ultimately be addressed at the regional and local levels. **OPEN ENLoCC offered a valuable platform for connecting research institutions, public authorities, logistics organisations and businesses from different European regions.** For us, it represented an opportunity not only to exchange knowledge, but also to develop long-term relationships with organisations facing similar challenges and sharing a commitment to practical and sustainable logistics solutions.

How has being part of OPEN ENLoCC benefited your organisation or your professional experience?

OPEN ENLoCC has provided us with access to a trusted European community of highly experienced organisations and individuals. Through the network, we have exchanged knowledge, developed project ideas, identified reliable partners and participated in several European initiatives.

For me personally, one of the greatest benefits has been the **opportunity to discuss ideas openly with colleagues who understand both the complexity of logistics systems and the realities of implementing solutions in different regions.** These discussions have frequently helped transform initial concepts into more mature research questions, project proposals and practical activities. However, the greatest value of the network is not only institutional. It lies in the professional relationships, mutual trust and friendships that have developed over the years.

Over the years, how have you seen the OPEN ENLoCC community evolve?

I have seen OPEN ENLoCC evolve from a project to relatively informal knowledge-exchange network into a more visible and active European platform. **The community has become more diverse, bringing together universities, research centres, regional authorities, clusters and specialised organisations with complementary expertise.** The network has also become more operational. It is increasingly involved in EU projects, policy discussions, dissemination activities and the development of concepts such as Regional Collaborative Logistics. Despite this growth, OPEN ENLoCC has retained one of its most important qualities: members know each other, communicate directly and remain willing to share their knowledge. Maintaining this combination of professional capacity and personal trust is, in my view, one of the network's greatest achievements.



Tomislav Letnik
Project manager and Assoc. Prof.
University of Maribor



20 Years of OPEN ENLoCC

Interview with **Tomislav Letnik** from University of Maribor

Is there a specific project, meeting or collaboration within the network that you particularly remember and why?

One particularly memorable collaboration emerged from the SULPiTER project and resulted in the **joint scientific article Review of Policies and Measures for Sustainable and Energy Efficient Urban Transport**. The analysis of 129 European cities revealed fragmented urban freight planning and insufficient integration of logistics into mobility strategies. It also showed that individual measures can reduce energy use and emissions by approximately 20–30%, while coordinated combinations can achieve savings of up to 60–70%. **With more than 100 citations, the article demonstrates how cooperation within OPEN ENLoCC can generate internationally relevant scientific knowledge.**

Building on this earlier collaboration and several joint projects, including GRETA, MED-COLOURS and Food4CE, our more recent work on Regional Collaborative Logistics, presented at the Transport Research Arena 2026 in Budapest, represents another important milestone. It highlighted the region as a crucial connecting layer between urban logistics, national systems and long-distance European transport corridors. The study also demonstrated that technologies such as AI, IoT, digital twins and the Physical Internet can act as key enablers of collaboration by improving transparency, information sharing and the coordination of logistics operations. Together, these examples show how OPEN ENLoCC can move beyond knowledge exchange and create relevant research, practical solutions and policy-oriented concepts.

What keeps OPEN ENLoCC relevant today?

OPEN ENLoCC remains relevant because the challenges facing European logistics are increasingly interconnected. Decarbonisation, digitalisation, supply-chain disruptions, geopolitical uncertainty, infrastructure constraints and shortages of resources cannot be addressed by individual organisations or isolated projects. At the same time, European strategies often need capable regional actors to translate them into practical implementation. **OPEN ENLoCC connects these two levels. It brings European knowledge and opportunities closer to regions while also bringing regional experience and practical realities into the European discussion.** Its greatest strength is its ability to act as a neutral and trusted intermediary. It connects actors that would otherwise optimise their activities separately and helps them recognise the benefits of cooperation, shared resources and system-level solutions.



Tomislav Letnik together with the Food4CE project Consortium, coordinated by the University of Maribor, of which OPEN ENLoCC is a partner

20 Years of OPEN ENLoCC

Interview with **Tomislav Letnik** from University of Maribor

How do you envision OPEN ENLoCC in the future?

I envision OPEN ENLoCC developing into an even stronger European knowledge and action platform for regional logistics.

It should continue connecting its members and developing European projects, while also taking a more systematic role in collecting evidence, monitoring logistics trends and translating research results into practical guidance for regions and national decision-makers.

The development of a European Logistics Observatory is an important step in this direction. Building on this initiative, OPEN ENLoCC could more actively support regional living labs, pilot projects and the transfer and replication of successful solutions across European regions.

I also believe that **OPEN ENLoCC could play a key coordinating role at both regional and national levels.** Through its members, it could connect and indirectly engage a much broader logistics ecosystem, including logistics associations, key industry partners, chambers of commerce and crafts, research institutions and relevant ministries. In this way, OPEN ENLoCC could serve as a bridge between European policies and initiatives, national priorities and the practical needs of regions and businesses. The network should continue to grow and welcome new expertise while preserving its openness, personal relationships and mutual trust. Its future value will depend not simply on the number of members or projects, but on its ability to bring together the right organisations, identify shared challenges and turn knowledge, cooperation and evidence into concrete action.

Tomislav Letnik together with the MED COLOURS project Consortium, coordinated by ITL



20 Years of OPEN ENLoCC

Interview with **Piotr Nowak** from Łukasiewicz – PIT

How long has your organisation been part of OPEN ENLoCC? What attracted you to the network at the time?

We have been a proud member of OPEN ENLoCC right from the very beginning, tracing our roots back to the network's foundational years. At the time, we were operating as the **Institute of Logistics and Warehousing (ILiM)** in Poznań.

What attracted us initially was OPEN ENLoCC's unique, sharp focus on regional logistics clusters and public-private cooperation. In the early days of European open logistics platforms, many initiatives were either purely academic or strictly commercial. **OPEN ENLoCC offered a rare, collaborative middle ground.** It gave us a platform to connect regional logistics hubs, bridge the gap between Central and Eastern European realities and Western European infrastructure, and co-create standard practices that could actually be deployed on the ground.

How has being part of OPEN ENLoCC benefited your organisation or your professional experience?

The benefits have been immense, acting as a catalyst for our growth. On an organizational level, OPEN ENLoCC provided ILiM – and now Łukasiewicz-PIT – with a direct line to elite European logistics competence centers. It opened doors to more than 15 high-impact international consortia, **allowing us to actively shape EU-funded projects rather than just participating in them.**

Professionally, the network is an incredible knowledge accelerator. Being able to exchange raw insights, tackle systemic hurdles like cross-border data sharing, and test new supply chain methodologies with trusted international peers has continually sharpened our expertise. It keeps our fingers directly on the pulse of European logistics policy and technological shifts.

Over the years, how have you seen the OPEN ENLoCC community evolve?

The evolution has been fascinating. We started as a tight-knit group focused heavily on regional freight transport, classic logistics platforms, and localized clustering. Over the years, as the industry digitized, the community shifted seamlessly from discussing physical infrastructure and basic telematics to navigating massive digital ecosystems. Furthermore, our own institutional transformation into the **Łukasiewicz Research Network** mirrored the changes we saw in OPEN ENLoCC. **The network has grown far more interdisciplinary.** We are no longer just talking about transport routes; the conversation has evolved into green transition strategies, multi-actor collaboration models, AI-driven optimization, and high-level digital resilience. It has matured from an exchange network into a true European powerhouse of logistics innovation.



20 Years of OPEN ENLoCC

Interview with **Piotr Nowak** from Łukasiewicz – PIT

Is there a specific project, meeting or collaboration within the network that you particularly remember and why?

The very beginning of cooperation was INTERREG III C project ENLoCC. One of the outcomes of the project was establishment of the OPEN ENLoCC network in year 2006. Then as member of the network we participated in such projects like CASTLE, SUGAR, SULPITER, GRETA and FOOD4CE. Each of them tackled important logistic issues related to the development of my organization and Wielkopolska region.

While there have been many milestone project meetings, workshops where we actively mapped out regional challenges always stand out the most. Those meetings truly captured the spirit of the network. You would have experts from different corners of Europe sitting around a table (and later, virtual whiteboards), candidly sharing what worked and what failed in their respective regions. **That level of transparency – where members share real lessons learned rather than just polished marketing slides – is rare, and it is exactly why those collaborations stick with you.**

What keeps OPEN ENLoCC relevant today?

Logistics today is caught in a complex dual challenge: the urgent need for radical decarbonization and the necessity for bulletproof digital resilience. No single institute, region, or even country can solve these puzzles in isolation. OPEN ENLoCC remains vital because it provides the exact framework needed to handle this: **a neutral, trusted space for Multi-Actor cooperation.** It connects regional authorities, research institutes, and industry players. When new EU directives or supply chain disruptions emerge, OPEN ENLoCC is already positioned to assemble the right minds to build practical, standardized digital tools and workflows to address them.

How do you envision OPEN ENLoCC in the future?

I see OPEN ENLoCC evolving into the **primary advisory engine and testing ground for the European "Twin Transition" (green and digital) in regional logistics.**

As Łukasiewicz – PIT continues to scale up its work in predictive AI, data standardisation, and sustainable supply chains, we envision the network playing a massive role in deploying these technologies across European corridors. I picture OPEN ENLoCC not just as a network of members, but as a driving force behind decentralized, secure European data spaces, ensuring that even smaller regional hubs and freight forwarders have the digital capabilities to stay competitive, green, and fully integrated into the global market.

Piotr Nowak together with the Food4CE Consortium in Poznań, Poland, for a Project Consortium Meeting



20 Years of OPEN ENLoCC

Our vision for the future

Twenty years of cooperation have demonstrated that logistics innovation is most effective when it starts from the regions. Looking ahead, OPEN ENLoCC aims to build on this legacy by strengthening its role as a European platform where regions, public authorities, research organisations, universities and industry can work together to address the challenges shaping the future of freight transport.

The coming decade will require logistics systems to become greener, smarter and more resilient. Decarbonisation, digital transformation, geopolitical uncertainties and increasing pressure on supply chains are changing the way goods move across Europe. These challenges cannot be tackled by individual organisations or regions alone. They call for stronger cooperation, shared knowledge and coordinated action across different territories and governance levels.

In this context, **OPEN ENLoCC intends to further consolidate its role within the European logistics landscape** by strengthening cooperation with complementary European networks, contributing to research and innovation initiatives, and providing a regional perspective to European policy discussions. **The network's unique added value lies in connecting local experience with European ambitions**, ensuring that innovation responds to the real needs of territories and logistics operators.

A key priority for the future will be the further development of the Regional Collaborative Logistics approach. By promoting cooperation among regions, logistics stakeholders and public authorities, OPEN ENLoCC aims to help transform innovative concepts into practical solutions capable of improving efficiency, resilience and sustainability throughout the logistics ecosystem. Particular attention will continue to be devoted to supporting SMEs and regional actors, ensuring that innovation is accessible and can generate tangible benefits for businesses and communities alike.

At the same time, **the network will continue investing in knowledge exchange and evidence-based decision making.** Building on the experience gained through European projects, OPEN ENLoCC will support the collection of data, the monitoring of logistics trends and the transfer of successful regional experiences across Europe. Strengthening regional living labs, pilot actions and collaborative initiatives will remain essential to accelerating the adoption of innovative logistics solutions.

More than ever, **the future of OPEN ENLoCC will depend on its ability to bring together the right partners around shared challenges.** By fostering dialogue, building strategic partnerships and connecting regional experiences with European priorities, the network will continue to act as a catalyst for innovation and cooperation.

The first twenty years have shown what cooperation can achieve. The next twenty will be about turning that cooperation into an even greater impact for Europe's regions and logistics systems. Our journey continues!



Welcoming Our New Members

OPEN ENLoCC continues to grow! We are pleased to welcome new members who are joining our network and contributing their expertise to strengthen cooperation and innovation in regional logistics across Europe.

Welcome to OPEN ENLoCC **IUAV University of Venice** and **Inlecom Innovation!**

ABOUT IUAV

The **University Iuav of Venice** is a leading European institution with a strong tradition in architecture, design, and urban planning. Established in 1926, it combines a rich history with a forward-looking, multidisciplinary approach to design strategies. Iuav has extensive experience in complex fields, including urban design, technology, and regional planning, with a specific focus on sustainability and climate adaptation.

The participation to OPEN ENLoCC will particularly target the field of transport, logistics and mobility, for which a **dedicated recognized spin-off at Iuav is in place (Bestever Supply Chain)**. In this field, Iuav/BSC aims at creating value for organizations, society, and the environment by designing and implementing complex projects with a specific focus on digitalization and innovation. IUAV/BSC combines managerial, technological, and academic expertise gained across international, industrial, and scientific sectors.

Furthermore, thanks to an extensive network of both public entities (regions, municipalities, etc.) and private stakeholders (transport and logistics operators), IUAV/BSC is uniquely positioned to implement tangible territorial policies in the public sector and effective pilot projects within the private sector.

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“IUAV/BSC seeks to join the OPEN ENLoCC network to **leverage over twenty years of expertise across the public and private sectors.**

Our mission is to support local and regional authorities (Regions, Municipalities, etc.) in the design and implementation of effective, tangible territorial policies and plans within the fields of transport, mobility, and logistics. Furthermore, we aim to drive the active involvement of transport and logistics operators through concrete pilot cases.

IUAV/BSC has developed extensive capabilities in planning, policy design, and operational management. Our organization was founded by merging diverse and complementary skill sets derived from high-level leadership roles. These include experience as shippers within industrial firms, executive management for transport and logistics providers, and the direction of academic innovation centers.

”

Marco Mazzarino
Professor, IUAV University

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Highlights from the last OPEN ENLoCC General Assembly – June 2026



On **23 June 2026**, the OPEN ENLoCC network gathered online for the General Assembly, bringing together members from across Europe to review the network's activities, discuss future priorities and strengthen collaboration within the community.

During the meeting, the Secretariat and Board of Directors presented **updates on the network's concluded and ongoing projects and initiatives**, including Food4CE, GRETA, MED Colours, TRANSCEND and ALTHEA, highlighting OPEN ENLoCC's role in communication, stakeholder engagement and knowledge sharing across European logistics ecosystems.

Participants also discussed **upcoming EU funding opportunities, strategic positioning of the network** in the field of Regional Collaborative Logistics, and **future activities planned for 2026**.

The major highlight of this General Assembly was the **election of the new Board of Directors** by the members, with **Tomislav Letnik** (University of Maribor) and **Orestis Tsolakis** (CERTH) joining the Board, while confirming **Giuseppe Luppino** as President of OPEN ENLoCC.

The General Assembly once again confirmed the strength of the OPEN ENLoCC community and the shared commitment of its members to advancing collaboration and innovation in regional logistics across Europe.

THE NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Giuseppe Luppino
President



Tomislav Letnik
University of Maribor



Orestis Tsolakis
CERTH



SAVE THE DATE

The **next OPEN ENLoCC General Assembly** will take place in **November 2026 in Brussels**. Stay tuned for further updates!

OPEN ENLoCC takes the stage at TRA 2026, engaging Europe's logistics leaders



On 18-21 May 2026, OPEN ENLoCC participated at the **Transport Research Arena (TRA) 2026** held in Budapest, Hungary. The TRA Conference represents the Europe's largest event for transport and mobility research initiated by the European Commission, which brings major stakeholders from across the continent and beyond. Under the theme **"Re-Generation in Transport"**, TRA 2026 highlights renewal and transformation in response to social, environmental, and technological challenges in this sector.

In this context, the European Network of Logistics Competence Centres and its members brought their experience in fostering the development of logistics at the regional level across the European Union, particularly through their work in EU-funded research projects.

During the conference, the **OPEN ENLoCC** team, represented by **Marco Alvi** and **Giorgia Facchini**, represented the **TRANSCEND** project at the ALICE-ETP space in the Ports & Airports Neighbourhood. Moreover, Marco Alvi held a pitch presentation at the ALICE Innovation Theatre, presenting the project objectives and result to the audience attending the exhibitors' area.



OPEN ENLoCC team (from left to right: **Giuseppe Luppino**, **Marco Alvi**, **Giorgia Facchini**) at the ALICE stand in the TRA Conference 2026 in Budapest, presenting TRANSCEND project

READ MORE



OPEN ENLoCC at TRA 2026: advancing the debate on Regional Collaborative Logistics

OPEN ENLOCC AT TRA 2026: ADVANCING THE DEBATE ON REGIONAL COLLABORATIVE LOGISTICS

Presentation of the paper *“Strategic Challenges, Opportunities and Enablers of Efficient Regional Collaborative Logistics”* by **Riccardo Maratini**, Programme Manager at OPEN ENLoCC



At the 2026 edition of the Transport Research Arena (TRA), held in Budapest from 18th to 21st of May, OPEN ENLoCC was proud to **contribute to the European discussion on the future of logistics and freight transport** through a **presentation dedicated to Regional Collaborative Logistics (RCL)**.

During the conference, **Riccardo Maratini**, Programme Manager at OPEN ENLoCC, **presented the paper “Strategic Challenges, Opportunities and Enablers of Efficient Regional Collaborative Logistics”**, co-authored together with representatives from **ITL – Institute for Transport and Logistics and the University of Maribor** (Members of OPEN ENLoCC).

The presentation explored how logistics systems can become more efficient, resilient and sustainable through stronger collaboration among regional stakeholders, highlighting the strategic importance of the regional dimension as the “middle layer” between urban logistics systems and long-distance transport corridors.

WHY REGIONAL COLLABORATIVE LOGISTICS MATTERS

Regional Collaborative Logistics focuses on the **coordinated use of infrastructures, resources and information among supply chain actors operating within the same regional ecosystem**. Rather than optimizing logistics activities in isolation, RCL promotes a shift toward system-wide performance through structured and long-term collaboration.

The paper *“Strategic Challenges, Opportunities and Enablers of Efficient Regional Collaborative Logistics”* underlines that **regions should not simply be interpreted as administrative areas, but rather as functional logistics ecosystems, where interactions among shippers, logistics service providers, infrastructure operators and public authorities can create opportunities for integrated and coordinated action**.

[READ MORE](#)

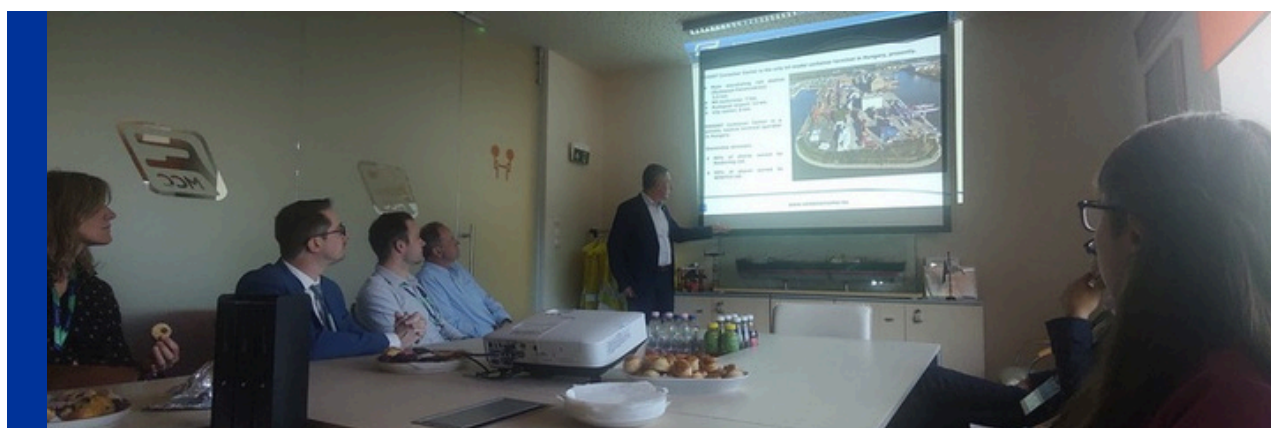


OPEN ENLoCC organises the site visit at the Mahart Container Centre



During the TRA Conference 2026 in Budapest, OPEN ENLoCC jointly organised a **site visit for its members and partners with the MAHART Container Centre (MCC)**, one of the transferability demonstrators of the TRANSCEND project. It was a great opportunity for participants to dig more deeply into the local logistics ecosystem, as the Budapest fluvial port accounts as one of the biggest and up-to-date port and distribution center of commodities in Europe.

Today, the **MCC FreePort** is the only currently operating trimodal container terminal in Hungary, connecting road-rail-waterway corridors serving operators working across Europe and Asia, recording in 2025 a turnover of 488.085 TEU.



News from our projects

MED COLOURS Final Conference brought Mediterranean cities and experts together in Brussels to shape the future of sustainable urban logistics

Interreg
Euro-MED



Co-funded by
the European Union

MED COLOURS



Policymakers, researchers, urban planners and logistics experts from across the Mediterranean gathered in **Brussels** and online on **9 June** for the **MED COLOURS Final Conference**, the closing event of the Interreg Euro-MED project dedicated to promoting more sustainable, resilient and zero-emission urban logistics systems.

Hosted at Comet Louise, the conference marked the culmination of years of transnational cooperation among Mediterranean cities and stakeholders working to address the growing environmental and social challenges linked to urban freight transport. Through presentations, roundtables and panel discussions, the event provided a platform to share project results, exchange experiences and explore future pathways for sustainable urban logistics planning.



[***Read more about the conference***](#)



**Watch the MED COLOURS
Final Conference Recording.**

BREAKING NEWS

MED COLOURS has been officially approved to go on to its Transfer Phase!

The project will support three new municipalities (Municipality of **Granada**, Municipality of **Maribor**, and Municipality of **Ferrara**) in developing their Sulp. Activities will run for 18 months, from July 1st 2026 to 31st December 2027. [***Read more about the Transfer Phase.***](#)

News from our projects

MED COLOURS showcases the activities and results of its five pilot actions through a dedicated series of videos highlighting sustainable urban logistics solutions across EU

As Communication Manager of the MED COLOURS project, Open ENLoCC, with the support of the project partners, produced a **series of videos showcasing the activities and results of the five pilot actions** implemented in the cities of **Livorno** and **Cesena** (Italy), **Koper** (Slovenia), **Lisbon** (Portugal), and **Lyon** (France).

Lisbon supporting the transition towards a Low Emission Logistics Zone

[Watch the Lisbon pilot video](#)



Cesena (ITALY): data-driven planning for sustainable urban freight

[Watch the Cesena pilot video](#)



Livorno (ITALY): smart loading bays and greener last-mile logistics

[Watch the Livorno pilot video](#)



Koper (SLOVENIA): an on-demand electric delivery service for the historic centre

[Watch the Koper pilot video](#)



Lyon (FRANCE): planning an underground logistics and mobility hub

[Watch the Lyon pilot video](#)



News from our projects

Update on TRANSCEND project

After identifying the technical components, the project consortium worked on the definition of the design and overall architecture of the **Integrated TRANSCEND Control Tower**.

The Control Tower is a digital platform with embedded business intelligence to operationally implement policy measures and continuously monitor threats and risks to Critical Infrastructures, enabling the seamless integration of Artificial Intelligence, data analytics, process intelligence, near real-time data, and user interaction layers into a unified system.



[Read more about the Control Tower](#)

[Visit the TRANSCEND project website](#)

WHAT'S NEXT?

TRANSCEND project is moving forward to implementing the pilot actions. In the meantime, OPEN ENLoCC is developing an Learning Management System containing relevant training materials and coordinating the organisation of DEMO sessions for each of these pilots to involve partners, end-users and external stakeholders and enhance opportunities for exploitation of the project outputs.



The 4th newsletter will be soon available!

WANT TO KEEP UPDATED ABOUT THE TRANSCEND PROJECT?

[CLICK HERE TO SUBSCRIBE!](#) 

News from our projects

Food4CE launches a social media campaign highlighting the project's logistics solutions

Although the Food4CE project officially came to an end in February 2026 with its Final Conference in Maribor, its legacy continues. OPEN ENLoCC remains committed to promoting the project's outcomes and **ensuring that the knowledge developed throughout the project continues to reach stakeholders across Europe**. For this reason, the project's communication channels remain active, providing access to resources, updates, and tools that can support the uptake and replication of Food4CE's results.

One of these initiatives is a new **social media campaign dedicated to the Logistics Solutions developed within the project**.

HOW CAN ALTERNATIVE FOOD NETWORKS (AFNs) IMPROVE THEIR LOGISTICS WHILE REMAINING LOCAL, SUSTAINABLE, AND EFFICIENT?

The campaign highlights a collection of practical and replicable approaches designed to help AFNs address real logistics challenges.

Available through the project's Knowledge Transfer Platform (KTP), these Logistics Solutions provide concrete examples, innovative ideas, and operational models that can support producers, cooperatives, and local food initiatives in improving distribution, accessibility, organisation, and the overall sustainability of their logistics systems.



FOOD4CE LOGISTICS SOLUTIONS SERIES

Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Co-funded by the European Union

#1 URBAN FARMERS' MARKETS

A key challenge for organic producers is reaching customers effectively. One promising solution is the establishment of cyclical markets, such as weekly farmer-managed markets, in large urban centres.

WHY IT WORKS:

- Shortens the distribution chain for farmers, reduces the cost of renting retail space, preserves profit margins, minimises time spent on customer service, and allows producers to concentrate customer interactions into a few hours each week, freeing up time for agricultural work.
- Customers benefit from access to a broad selection of organic products directly from producers and quickly adapt to a regular shopping schedule.
- Direct contact between producers and customers fosters mutual trust and facilitates the exchange of information.

DISCOVER MORE ON THE FOOD4CE KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER PLATFORM:

<https://www.openenlocc.net/food4ce/>




Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Co-funded by the European Union

Food4CE

The map shows the geographical spread of the Food4CE project across Central Europe, with several location pins indicating specific project sites. A circular inset provides a closer look at the central European region.

News from our projects

ALTHEA project second in-person meeting held in Milan on 16-17 June 2026

On 17-18 June, the **ALTHEA** consortium came together in Milan for two days of collaboration, knowledge sharing, and strategic dialogue aimed at accelerating the transition to climate-neutral peri-urban areas across Europe.

Bringing together project partners, Transition Super Living Labs (TSLLs), replicator regions, innovators, and implementation actors, the meeting served as a **valuable opportunity to assess progress and define priorities for the next phase of the project.**

READ MORE



Luca Simone, OPEN ENLoCC Project Manager, at the ALTHEA project meeting in Milan



SITE VISIT AT HUPAC/CIM INTERMODAL TERMINAL

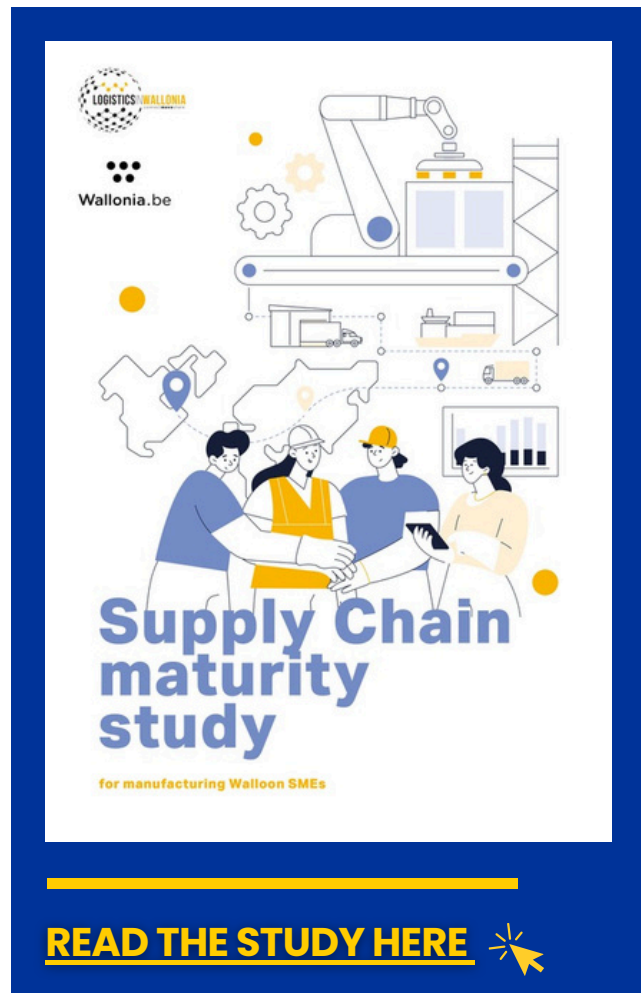
One of the highlights of the event was a visit to the Hupac/CIM intermodal terminal in Novara, a pilot site within the Milano TSLL. Situated along key European transport corridors, the Novara hub offered a practical demonstration of how logistics, technology, sustainability, and governance can be integrated to support climate-neutral transitions. Participants gained first-hand insights into the role of intermodal freight transport in shifting cargo from road to rail, reducing emissions, and enhancing the resilience of European supply chains.

[Visit the ALTHEA project website](https://www.althea-project.eu)

Latest from Our Members

Logistics in Wallonia publishes new Supply Chain Maturity Study for manufacturing Walloon SMEs

Based on more than 450 Supply Chain diagnostics and enriched by insights from European logistics clusters, federations and experts, the study identifies six key areas that drive Supply Chain competitiveness. Rather than offering a one-size-fits-all model, the publication provides a **practical framework to help SMEs assess their current maturity and identify priorities for improvement.** The study also highlights the **importance of a supportive innovation ecosystem and stronger collaboration** among businesses and stakeholders to enhance Supply Chain resilience and competitiveness.



ARE YOU AN OPEN ENLOCC MEMBER AND WOULD LIKE TO SHARE YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER?

WRITE TO US AT:
COMMUNICATION@OPENENLOCC.NET



Upcoming Open ENLoCC Events

28 September –
1 October 2026
Brussels
**Connecting Europe
Days**



Connecting Europe Days will bring together politicians, financial institutions, industry representatives, transport stakeholders and the European Commission to discuss concrete measures and exchange good practices on creating a competitive, resilient, safe and sustainable transport sector in Europe.

OPEN ENLoCC will be at CED 2026 showcasing the TRANSCEND project. Follow the OPEN ENLoCC website for details on how to find us.



17–18 November 2026
Brussels
**ALICE Logistics
Innovation Summit
2026**

The third edition of the ALICE Logistics Innovation Summit will take place on 17–18 November at the Tangla Hotel in Brussels. This two-day event will bring together companies, researchers, public authorities, associations, and policy stakeholders to discuss ways in which logistics and supply chains can be made more efficient, resilient, and aligned with Europe's decarbonisation goals.

The 2026 edition will focus on practical innovation, stakeholder engagement, and collaboration across the logistics ecosystem brought forward by pioneer companies and EU-funded projects.

Upcoming Open Enlocc Events

20–22 October 2026

Brussels

Critical Infrastructure Protection & Resilience Europe (CIPRE)

critical infrastructure
PROTECTION AND RESILIENCE EUROPE



The 11th Annual conference bringing together leading stakeholders from industry, operators, agencies and governments to collaborate on securing Europe will take place this year in Brussels, from 20 to 22 October 2026.

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Critical Infrastructure Protection & Resilience Europe brings together leading stakeholders from industry, infrastructure operators, agencies and governments to collaborate on securing Europe's infrastructure. The conference will build on previous themes by deepening understanding of emerging threats and vulnerabilities, and by supporting the development and implementation of frameworks for risk-management, strategic planning and resilient operations.

READ MORE



BENEFITS FOR OPEN ENLOCC MEMBERS

As the Executive Sponsor of the conference, **OPEN ENLOCC members will benefit from a 25% discount on conference registration through an exclusive discount code.**



For more info, please write to us at communication@openenlocc.net

DO YOU HAVE AN INTERESTING EVENT TO SUGGEST?



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