

L4LIFE

Logistics for LIFE



Innovative ICT solutions to ensure long-term sustainability of the logistics industry by increasing its operational efficiency

At a Glance

Project acronym:

L4LIFE – Logistics for LIFE

Project type:

Coordination Action

Programme:

7th EU Framework Programme

Project coordinator:

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Project partners:

Insiel, FHV, VTT, Deutsche Post DHL, Chalmers University, SeaRail, Singular Logic, TREDIT, Gebrüder Weiss, BIBA, MARLO, SINTEF, BLG, Kühne + Nagel, COSCOEL, Intel

Start date:

01/01/2010

End date:

30/06/2012

Total cost:

1,96 M€

EU funding:

1,42 M€

Project website:

www.logistics4life.eu

Objectives

Logistics for LIFE stands for **Logistics Industry Coalition for Long-term, ICT-based Freight Transport Efficiency**. The consortium cooperates to achieve the following objectives:

- 1) to set up a multi-disciplinary network of logistics companies, technology providers and researchers;
- 2) to create a reference framework where logistic efficiency requirements are related to strategic sustainability objectives;
- 3) to come up with a strategic roadmap facilitating the effective implementation of ICT solutions for energy efficiency in logistics as identified in the reference framework;
- 4) to promote the L4LIFE vision and findings as well as relevant results from the Coalition members' projects;
- 5) to establish a joint platform of initiatives related to long-term efficiency.

Description of Work

The L4LIFE consortium has 17 partners including global leaders in logistics, technology providers, ICT companies and research organizations.

Logistics for Life



The L4LIFE provides a coordination platform for some of the major initiatives and research projects in the field. International Stakeholders from China, the US and Eastern Europe are part of the consortium and/or expressed their interest in participating in the Intelligent Cargo Forum.

L4LIFE mainly works on 3 key elements:

1. THE REFERENCE FRAMEWORK

L4LIFE will build a reference framework linking the stakeholders' efficiency requirements to strategic sustainability objectives and to relevant ICT solutions, looking at three sustainability dimensions:

- Environmental sustainability;
- Societal sustainability;
- Financial sustainability.

2. THE ROLE OF ICT

While attempts to push cargo onto environmentally friendly transport modes and infrastructures are failing to meet expectations, logistics firms face problems of volatile fuel prices, low margins and fierce competition, which are typical of a commoditized sector. These problems are addressed by several ICT solutions in different stages of research and development, run by both the industry and research institutions. Nevertheless, ICT's role in improving logistics' energy efficiency is still in question. L4LIFE will look at the main factors driving logistics operations' efficiency and select and highlight ICT solutions that may positively impact on these factors.



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3. THE INTELLIGENT CARGO FORUM

The Intelligent Cargo Forum (ICF) is aiming at establishing and maintaining the core group of a pan-European Intelligent Cargo movement. It will consist of organisations and individuals willing to cooperate and perform well-defined tasks and activities suitable to support the development and exploitation of the Intelligent Cargo concept.

Although the Intelligent Cargo Forum is supported by two FP7 projects, namely EURIDICE and the present L4LIFE, it is above all a neutral place where the, business opportunities and developments of Intelligent Cargo are discussed. Plans for the ICF's continuation and evolution after the end of L4LIFE are being prepared. The goal is to establish the Forum as a permanent community, with adequate organization and resources and with the aim to continue building and disseminating the concept, technologies and logistics models of Intelligent Cargo.

Expected results

These instruments (L4LIFE Framework, IC-Forum) are used by the L4LIFE project to facilitate and promote sustainability efforts of the logistics community:

- **Environmental sustainability**

Reducing emissions and making freight transport more energy-efficient, with ICT support for the modal shift from road to rail, environment-aware route optimization solutions, technologies for vehicle efficiency, and other means.

- **Societal sustainability**

Reducing freight transport's impact on communities and citizens through better traffic management, higher efficiency in infrastructure operations and enhanced safety and security control.

- **Financial sustainability**

Saving costs and protecting market share of individual logistics firms, with improved planning and execution systems and e-business tools which are simplifying the management of multi-modal door-to-door shipments.