

THE «EUROPEAN REVIEW OF REGIONAL LOGISTICS» AND THE EUROPEAN NETWORK OF LOGISTICS COMPETENCE CENTERS «OPEN ENLOCC»

The «European Review of Regional Logistics» deals with logistics questions from the point of view of their regional implications. It is issued quarterly, with a print run of 1000 copies and a further 700 copies distributed as pdf. The «Review» serves as newsletter of «Open ENLoCC», the European Network of Logistics Competence Centers, and is issued by KLOK Kooperationszentrum Logistik e.V., which serves as the secretariat of the network. The journal can be downloaded as pdf from www.openenlocc.net. Paper copies are distributed by the network members, which are listed on the website. The language of the publication, with its contributors coming from all over Europe, is English.

The «European Review of Regional Logistics» is a follow-up of the Open ENLoCC organization's newsletter, which in the past years was sent out irregularly as pdf. During the year 2014, it systematically added more content and thus was transformed into a magazine in early 2015.

Each issue starts with a «news» section that goes beyond member news, including reports from meetings as well as developments in the European regions. Then, a regional logistics competence center is featured, plus a logistics region. The core of the content work is a set of articles dealing with regional logistics projects as well as European policies.

Logistics is a rather young and very practical science. However, the topics of logistics have always existed. Therefore, classical texts are featured in each issue. The range is from Adam Smith on road toll and Mark Twain on the rise and fall of a trade union of Mississippi pilots, to texts from literature and travel diaries about the historical difficulties of crossing the channel between Britain and the continent, featured in the newest issue.

A list of relevant «next dates» informs the reader of scientific meetings and trade fairs ahead.

Target groups of the «Review» are scientists and members of logistics associations, economic developers, politicians and administrators in the various European regions. The «Review» thus does not compete with either the scientific magazines or the logistics journals and newsletters serving the industry. It usually does not publish original scientific content, but it does explain it, with the help of professors and researchers from the relevant institutes. Texts thus are shorter than those in scientific magazines, with the main articles covering two pages, and an issue totaling 24 pages in A4 format.

Open ENLoCC, the organization behind the «Review», is an association of institutions from all over Europe, which view themselves as competence centers in the field of logistics, with a view to regional logistics knowledge, and with a public mission to research and explain logistics issues in their region. When dealing with logistics questions, some of these institutions found out that the very nature of logistics, and specifically of transport logistics, often demanded to know partners in other European regions to answer their questions. Thus, they started the «ENLoCC» project with five partners from four countries, which was co-funded by the European Union's «Interreg IIIC» program, from its inception in 2004 until 2007.

In late 2006, the network was opened to membership of other institutions. It started with eleven members and goes with a small yearly member fee. The name was consequently changed into «Open ENLoCC». At the moment, the number of members is seventeen. After the end of the EU funding, the network became self-sustaining, with in-kind contributions from members and a monetary support to the secretariat from Stuttgart Region's Economic Development Corporation, to cover work time spent on the organization of the network and the issuing of the «Review».

The Open ENLoCC member institutions each hold a huge amount of regional logistics knowledge. Furthermore, typically each is a specialist in one or more topics, with a reputation across Europe. Therefore, the network as a whole probably is one of the most in-depth international sources of logistics knowledge in Europe. The members of Open ENLoCC work together on common projects with the aim of developing the regional economy by solving infrastructural, organisational and technological problems of logistics

and transport. Dissemination of results from network activities and best practices take place on a wide scale, involving all the key bodies at EU level.

The variety of institutions in practice also is a benefit – they all know their task and their region, but the different perspective makes them valuable mutual partners. As a result, members often cooperate with other members in joint projects. However, it happens frequently that members also find themselves competing for projects with other members.

While much of the networking and knowledge exchange is done informally, the yearly highlight is the General Assembly, where the network members debate each other's ideas and strategies, and where they learn about recent research results. To spread this knowledge to a wider audience, Open ENLoCC occasionally holds public workshops, often together with member activities. One example is the 2014 workshop on city logistics, held together with Open ENLoCC member MOBI of Brussels Free University, and exchanging views with a larger audience as well as with experts from all over the world.

On the other hand, it must be kept in mind that Open ENLoCC is a very lean organization, and the same is true for its «Review». There is no full-time staff. Besides the General Assembly, activities usually are developed out of the interest of one or more members. Nevertheless, on November 17, there will be a gathering in Brussels for the 10th anniversary of Open ENLoCC, which will be used to deepen cooperation with related Europe-wide associations.

As per June 2016, the European Network of Regional Logistics Competence Centers «Open ENLoCC» has the following members:

- CMS, Centre for Maritime Studies of Brahea Centre at the University of Turku, Finland;
- CRITT Transport et Logistique, Le Havre, France;
- CTL, Centre for Transport and Logistics of the University of Rome La Sapienza, Roma, Italy;
- Amt der Kärntner Landesregierung, Klagenfurt, Austria, for former member Entwicklungsagentur Kärnten, EAK;
- i-Fret, Innovation platform i-Fret for freight logistics, Dunkerque, France;
- ILiM, Institute of Logistics and Warehousing, Poznan, Poland;
- ITL, Institute for Transport and Logistics Foundation, Bologna, Italy;
- KINNO, Kouvola Innovation Oy, Kouvola, Finland;
- KLOK Kooperationszentrum Logistik e.V., Kornwestheim / Stuttgart, Germany;
- LCS, Logistik-Cluster Schwaben (LCS) e.V., Augsburg, Germany;
- Logistics in Wallonia, Liege, Belgium;
- Mah, Malmö University, Department of Urban Studies/Transport Management, Malmö, Sweden;
- MOBI, Vrije Universiteit Brussel – MOBI (Mobility, Logistics and Automotive Technology Research Group) Brussels, Belgium;
- MoWiN.net e.V., Kassel, Germany;
- NewRail, Newcastle University, Great Britain;
- UM, University of Maribor, Faculty of Civil Engineering – Transport Economics Centre, Maribor, Slovenia;
- WRS, Wirtschaftsregion Stuttgart GmbH, Stuttgart, Germany.

Membership of Open ENLoCC is open to all Regions, Local Public Authorities, Associations, public or semipublic bodies with interests related to Open ENLoCC and with a specific and explicit interest in founding and operating a LoCC (Logistics Competence Center), and including all existent LoCCs. Joining Open ENLoCC requires a formal procedure. Specifics of a membership from outside the EU can be outlined on request.

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