

RAVENNA PORTNET Workshop

Conclusions and recommendations

Regione Emilia Romagna has organised the PORTNET workshop on “EDI and cargo flows” in Ravenna (April 4-7 2006). The Port of Ravenna is the main commercial port in Emilia Romagna, nevertheless Emilia Romagna can be considered as an infrastructure for logistics; it has been defined as a “natural logistics platform” by its representatives.

The objective of the workshop was to combine the aspect of the *flow of goods* and the *flows of information* looking at a) the organisational aspects of ports and freight villages and transnational logistic chains and b) the state-of-the-art of ICT technologies (Information and Communication Technologies) in the transport and logistic area.

One of the main target has been the analysis of transnational multimodal chains, taking into account the specific aspect of how to involve many actors in an efficient and effective IT environment in which different actors can share information and have new ICT added value services.

Conclusions

EDI is a complex aspect of multimodal transport chains because involves many different actors and there is a concrete need to have more attention to standards

The inclusion of small companies is not critical at the same level in different countries and ports because of the different status of each area in terms of big and small companies

Many of the best practices are related to the management of a terminal (port or train station) while it is clear that a big work has to be done in freight villages and intermodal transport.

The workshop underlined the importance and the necessity of the additional development of ICT value added services within port areas as it could lead to productivity growth. Furthermore the ICT activities develop alongside the globalization and are critical for future development.

The main conclusions of the workshop are:

- the needs of improving networks is growing very rapidly. Network at business, communication and technological level. The actual approach of each nodes in a large transport network represents the main weak point.
- Quality of life, quality of infrastructure, quality of integration among the ports, the cities and the logistics infrastructures. The need of designing in a very modern approach new initiative

During the workshop it has been pointed out three main aspects:

- the role of ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) in Transport and logistics
- the need of a revision of the processes related to the communication in transport and logistics
- the relevance of training in ICT, Transport and Logistics

Main recommendations

- ?? to work on the dissemination of good and best practices on business process reengineering in transnational chains
- ?? to define approaches to manage the correlations among ports, freight villages in terms of EDI and standards related to

Next PORTNET workshop will address less topics more in depth in order to give specific answers to the real needs of logistic operators.

After the presentations and the discussion, many open questions are still waiting for an answer:

- ?? Are the companies ready to open their information systems ?
- ?? Is the interest in Interoperability limited to pilot project or it is a real market issue ?
- ?? Are there ICT relevant services available on the market ?
- ?? Who pays for the services ?
- ?? Who will invest in new services ?
- ?? Is technology sufficient to cooperate ?
- ?? How to start the process of business process reengineering in the logistics ?
- ?? Is the P2P approach the right one ?
- ?? Is the IT security a critical issue in this process ?

..... And others ...

Best practices

- ?? Interporto di Bologna and the ICT adoption for managing the managing the terminal operation (including shunting operations) as an interesting best practice It was a concrete demonstration of ICT
- ?? The design capabilities presented by the experience of the Gildanet project in terms of process modelling and ICT applications for transnational logistic chains
- ?? The proposed methodologies for accessibility of Industrial districts in an integrated approach to develop infrastructure and services
- ?? The training profiles
- ?? The experience of the fish marketplace in Cesenatico