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## Co-operation with SMEs in logistics on a basis of INTERREG projects. Case Study from Latvia

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Baltic Sea Region is facing a need of major economic restructuring and efforts to achieve more integrated and sustainable transport and communication links. One of these efforts is the development of logistics centres (LCs) and their networking, which will continue to have an impact on improving communication links, spatial planning practices and approaches, logistics chain development and the promotion of sustainable transport modes.

The importance of logistics systems as a whole is not seen clearly enough. SME logistics actors see that logistics operations are not appreciated as much as other fields of activity.

In the paper main goal and tasks of national approach for logistics SME networking and LCs development are discussed.

The key objectives are to integrate the links between logistics centres, railway, ports and other logistics operators in a functional and sustainable way, to promote spatial integration by creating sustainable and integrated approaches to spatial planning of logistics centres and transport infrastructure, to improve ICT-based networking and communication practices of the fields of transport and logistics and to increase the competence of logistics centres and associated actors.

Paper describes some results of SMEs co-operation in logistics at the national level on the base of EU projects START, LogOnBaltic, Baltic Tangent, InLoC and others.

Through analysing the current situation of the logistics in the EU/Russia border regions as well as the earlier completed transport and logistics research and projects, Baltic Tangent project elaborated concrete recommendations and technical conditions for implementing SME projects and also action plans to guarantee the best accessibility and economically most effective logistic space for cargo transport between EU hinterland, Baltic region and Russia.

From the point of view the suggestion for freight transport development in Europe, InLoC project concentrated on the solving needs for SME investment policy - need for sufficient co-modal infrastructure, platforms and transshipment facilities (rail platforms, dry ports in the hinterland) and in elaborating the action plan that will encourage investment proposals in these facilities

The main objective of LogOnBaltic project was to produce and disseminate information for regional development agencies on how to support region's enterprises in their effort to

**13.05.2010, POZNAŃ, POLAND**

improve ICT and logistics competence, oriented on improvement of accessibility, border crossing and introduction of innovative ICT-solutions into transport and logistics.

Another example of solutions for SME activities was the START project in Riga. Its aim was oriented on the city logistics with optimisation of cargo flows in the historical centre of the city.

Other activities described in paper include, for example, the creation of measures for transport network modernisation, the establishment of a common vision of the future spatial and environmental development along the transport corridors and LC-areas, the elimination of bottlenecks in port-hinterland-LC connections, the integration of telematics supported logistics networks based on identification and analysis of networks and others.

### **Biographical information**



**Igor Kabashkin**, Professor, Dr.hab.sc.ing. degree in Aviation (1992, Riga Aviation University), Dr.sc.ing. degree in Aviation (1981, Moscow Aviation Institute), Diploma of Radio Engineer (1977, Riga Civil Aviation Engineering Institute).

Present position: President of the Transport and Telecommunication Institute, director of the Telematics and Logistics Institute, president of Latvian Operations Research Society, President of Latvian Transport Development and Education Association, Vice-President of Latvian Transport Union.

Member of Technical Committee on Transport and Urban Development of European Commission for Co-operation in the Fields of Scientific and Technical Research, Member of Joint OECD/ECMT Transport Research Committee, Corresponding Member of Latvian Academy of Science.

The main area of professional interests: Transport Telematics and Logistics, Analysis and Modelling of Complex Systems, Operations Research, Information Technology Applications, Electronics and Telecommunication, Decision Support Systems, Air Traffic Control Systems.

Publications: more than 400 research books and papers and 67 patents.



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**Irina V. Yatskiv** was born in Krasnoyarsk, Russia and entered in the Riga Civil Aviation Engineering Institute, where she studied computer science and obtained her an engineer diploma in 1982. Candidate of Technical Science Degree (1990, Riga Aviation University), Dr.sc.ing. (1992, Riga Aviation University).

Present position: Vice-Rector of the Transport and Telecommunication Institute, Professor of Computer Science Department. Member of Classification Society of North America, Member of Latvian Simulation Modelling Society, Director of Latvian Operation Research Society, the leader of project BSR INTERREG III B Programme InLoC, and projects connected with transport system simulation in Latvia. Fields of research: multivariate statistical analysis, modelling and simulation, decision support system. Publications: more than 70 scientific papers and teaching books.