

2nd B2B LOCO conference

Summary of presentation titled:

**Collaboration of SMEs in supply chains:
projects SEAMLESS, KASSETTS and eBEST**

made by

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Grand Hotel Metropol, Portorož, 27. 5. 2011

Small-medium sized enterprises (SMEs) are often lacking in competitiveness because of their limited resources and poor adoption of advanced ICT solutions. Even when they are organised into supply chains or business network they keep using traditional collaboration means affected by low efficiency and insufficient reactivity. On the other hand, the ICT market is focused on larger companies assuring a significant investment capacity, thus the SME peculiar needs are normally neglected.

In order to overcome these problems a number of RTD projects has been carried out in the last five years whose ultimate aim is studying, prototyping and experimenting ICT services and applications that are specifically conceived for SMEs and SME networks to favour the introduction of innovative organisational and collaborative models and their support tools. The SEAMLESS, KASSETTS and eBEST projects, belonging to this category, produced a significant advance on the state-of-the-art.

The SEAMLESS [2006-2008] project identified first a basic suite of ICT communication services that can enable SMEs to have more efficient collaborations in the supply chain. Then, the KASSETTS project [2008-2011] puts special attention on logistic services since they represent a really critical problem for SMEs with a limited transport demand. Finally, the eBEST project [2010-2012] develops SME-oriented planning and scheduling tools for SME networks including logistic constraints.