SCOPE project: towards a more efficient freight transport system in Southeastern Europe

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Introduction

An efficient freight transport system is essential for supporting regional economic growth and competitiveness as it plays an important role in productivity and social welfare, especially in the countries of the Balkan-Med region, where road transport is the predominant mode for moving goods (road transport accounts for 97% of total inland freight transport in Greece and Albania and 75% in Bulgaria).

There is a pressing need to address current inefficiencies and improve the performance of the trucking sector which still faces challenges regarding productivity, capacity utilization (e.g. 60% of trucks return empty), environmental sustainability, resource use mismatch, lack of coordination, fragmentation of activities, etc.

Freight exchange platforms aim to address this need and provide, to their users, services of real added value. Despite the wide adoption of such platforms in Europe, their deployment in the Balkan-Med region is still limited.

Methodology

“Shared freight transport services connecting shipper and carrier operations” (SCOPE) project aims to address existing inefficiencies and improve the performance of the road freight transport system in the Balkan-Med region by providing a transnational, innovative, and market-driven freight exchange platform.

The SCOPE platform will build upon available knowledge and experience and will carefully consider local and transnational road freight transport conditions, providing value-added services meeting its users’ needs and requirements.

Industry stakeholders will be actively engaged in the development of the platform, providing their feedback and guidance.

Besides its online booking system, the SCOPE platform will also provide advanced services (operating cost estimation, routing applications, cargo monitoring, etc.).

A driving simulator will assist in providing these services through the platform.

Discussion & Conclusions

SCOPE project will be realized in the frame of six Work Packages (WP): WP 1: Project Management & Coordination, WP 2: Project Communication & Dissemination, WP 3: State-of-the-Art & Practice, WP 4: System Requirements & High-level Architecture, WP 5: Platform Development, Testing & Evaluation, WP 6: Pilot Application & Sustainable Exploitation, by the SCOPE project consortium that guarantees its successful implementation: 1. Centre for Research and Technology Hellas – Hellenic Institute of Transport (GR), 2. Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (GR), 3. Professionals’ Chamber of Thessaloniki (GR), 4. Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BG), 5. Regional Industrial Association, Smolyan (BG), 6. Smolyan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BG), 7. Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Tirana (AL).

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