GS1 partners with 42 leading stakeholders to push for efficiency and sustainability in European transport corridors

EU sponsored project FENIX optimises the interoperability of European logistics platforms

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Brussels, 9 JULY 2020. The consortium of the EU funded project called FENIX is breaking ground developing the first federated data network to harmonise the exchange of logistics information along the nine major EU transport corridors. Under the leadership of GS1 Germany, six other GS1 organisations, including GS1 Global Office, are responsible for standardisation and interoperability.

Europe's transport and logistics platforms are significantly fragmented, making information-sharing and coordination very challenging. The lack of interoperable information exchange in the logistics and supply chains is the main barrier preventing greater efficiency and sustainability in transport and logistics processes within the European transport network.

Those working in logistics struggle with countless manual entries, paper shipping documents and time-consuming customs clearance. Delays and empty containers, long waiting times at borders, and lack of transparency in the transport of dangerous goods are also part of this picture, where currently complex systems don't speak the same language in terms of neutral, interoperable standards. Within FENIX, supply chains are built upon a wide range of existing standards, but they are generally not well aligned and, therefore, difficult to combine.

The European funding programme CEF (Connecting Europe Facility) supports the European FEderated Network of Information eXchange in LogistiX (FENIX) with funding totalling €30 million. The project will ensure maximum interoperability between existing and new logistics information systems, resulting in a federated information exchange network. This will enable different digital platforms to connect smoothly and to harmonise the services that they offer, resulting in optimised transport operations all around Europe.

"FENIX will develop the first European federated architecture for data sharing serving the European logistics community of shippers, logistics service providers, mobility infrastructure providers, cities, and authorities in order to offer interoperability between any individual existing and potential future platforms", said FENIX project coordinator Eusebiu Catana. "FENIX will become a game changer for the transport & logistics domain".

The solid European reach of the GS1 global network is greatly contributing to this project by increasing standardisation and interoperability across the FENIX consortium. "GS1 global language of business can help connecting complex systems to each other in smart ways and turn data into valuable information. For Europe's transport and logistics sector, this is badly needed, and I am glad we will help businesses be more efficient and sustainable, for the ultimate benefit of consumers and the planet itself", says GS1 project lead Sandra Wagner. Zharko Vasilevski, Project Manager from Mondelēz Load Control Centre adds: "GS1 standards are playing an important role in the FENIX innovation to foster interoperability in the Mondelēz pilot site with the scope to interconnect seamlessly with other logistics and transport actors across Europe."

Project partners for this project include some of the most relevant actors in this sector, such as Air Cargo Belgium (ACB), ATOS, Bilbao Port, CERTH, European Shippers Council (ESC), Interregional Alliance for the Rhine-Alpine Corridor (EGTC), Interporto Bologna and Trieste, Jan de Rijk, Kühne & Nagel, the Italian and Greek Ministries of Infrastructure, Mondelez International, Procter & Gamble, the Alps-Adriatic, Liguria, Lombardia and Piedmont regions, Rheinhäfen and TX Logistics, alongside consortium manager Ertico-ITS.

Plans in the project include the development of applications as plug-and-play solutions, such as optimised route planning and dynamic re-routing based on real-time visibility. FENIX operates using a cloud-based approach that has access to accurate, reliable, event-related information flows. Two key pillars for this approach are agreement on standards and a combination of private and public governance. FENIX also draws on the Internet of Things (IoT), satellite navigation, and retrospective data for developing automated processes and intelligent algorithms. Consortium partners will use insights gained that way to streamline freight routes or combine them in more optimised ways.

Those who gain the most from this are members of the European logistics community, such as shippers, logistics service providers, mobility infrastructure providers, cities, and the authorities. By the end of the project in April 2022, this not-for-profit, open-standards, federated network for the transport and logistics industry should be accessible to all stakeholders in the EU.

Further information is available at www.fenix-network.eu

European Federated Network of Information eXchange in LogistiX

FENIX follows the recommendation from the European Commission's Digital Transport and Logistic Forum (DTLF), which is to provide all players in the transport and logistics industry with a valid, federative platform network to enable the exchange of data in the Business-to-Administration (B2A) and (B2B) sectors. To this end, FENIX draws on findings from the H2020 projects, Aeolix and Seliis, which are now finished.

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