



SMILE workshop on Innovative solutions for energy efficient urban logistics

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Another step forward towards new shared solutions for last-kilometer deliveries

On 10 December 2014, the city of Montpellier hosted the SMILE project's 4th workshop. SMILE is a European project funded by the MED Programme aiming at finding and testing new smart and green solutions for urban logistics.

For the occasion, representatives of the project's partnership, encompassing actors from 6 Mediterranean cities (Valencia, Piraeus, Bologna, Barcelona, Rijeka and Montpellier) witnessed a passionate debate between key players of the transport scene of the Montpellier region, exchanging their opinions, difficulties and envisaging solutions on the complicated but strategic issue of urban distribution. The workshop was also an opportunity to compare the innovative solutions developed in France with those implemented in the other Mediterranean countries involved in the project.

The Montpellier city representative from the Urban Management directorate firstly detailed the actions initiated by the city in the recent years for allowing a smoother urban last-kilometer transport. The director of the MIN (Market of National Interest) completed the previous intervention by showing how public authorities can manage and coordinate distribution flows in an urban logistics center allowing the distribution of agro food products to 1800 commercial units of the city. These presentations were counter-balanced by the afternoon speech of the representatives of market actors such as JONCTION, a Logistics consultancy firm, and Transport Randon, one of the main transport companies of the regions who exposed the point of view of the industry.

The conclusion reached is that, as in many other fields, urban logistics involve many players, and the main problem is often the lack of shared knowledge on the problems faced by all the other actors of the chain. One of the propositions brought forward was therefore that urban planners should be seriously trained to become knowledgeable on transport issues, and vice versa. Once again, dialogue is the key to success. In this regard, this SMILE workshop has definitely been a step in the right direction!

MAIN SPEAKERS:

Vincent Meyer – Urban management directorate of the city of Montpellier

Olivier Lauro – Director of the MIN (Market of National Interest) of the city of Montpellier

Bertrand Dumas – Target CO2 manager in the Languedoc-Roussillon region

Jean-Baptiste Thebaud – Jonction

Stephane Randon – TSR Transport